

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXV.—NEW SERIES, No. 1024.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1865.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 6d.
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THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The FRIENDS of RELIGIOUS EQUALITY are invited to place themselves in communication with the Electoral Committee of the SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE PATRONAGE and CONTROL, of whom information respecting ecclesiastical questions, together with the votes of M.P.'s, may be obtained.

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.
2, Serjeant's-inn, Fleet-street, London.

TO THE ELECTORS of the NORTHERN DIVISION of the COUNTY of ESSEX

GENTLEMEN.—I am deeply sensible of the honour which has been conferred upon me by the presentation of the influential and very numerously signed Requisition that I will consent to become a Candidate for the high distinction of representing your interests in Parliament.

If I could alone consult my personal comfort, I should gratefully decline so flattering a proof of your confidence. But I fully admit the truth of the well-known proposition that property has its duties to perform as well as its rights to exercise. I shall therefore cheerfully present myself as a candidate at the next general election, relying upon your zealous exertions and promises of support; and with the confidence that constitutional liberty and the principles of rational progress may be safely intrusted to my conscientious advocacy. These principles are identified with the name which I bear.

A sincere member of the Church of England from my earliest youth, such I shall hope to continue to my latest hour; and it is for this reason that I would firmly support the entire abolition of Church-rates, because it is inconsistent with the doctrines of our faith to fetter the consciences of our Dissenting fellow-subjects or to occasion discord where our common Christianity inculcates peace and good-will. Moreover the constant agitation and unkindly feelings which are excited by this question are sources of weakness to the Church itself.

I would sincerely maintain the entire Repeal of the Malt Tax, because such would be the reasonable completion of those Free Trade principles whereby our agriculturists were deprived of the presumed benefits of protection. If Free Trade in corn has been, at any time, injurious to the British Farmer, he is entitled to the advantages of relief from oppressive taxation on malt.

There are many subjects of the highest public interest which are beyond the limits of an address. I only refer to those which are the leading questions of the day.

Gentlemen, my cause is yours. If the Electors of North Essex would be relieved from Tory domination, I am prepared to be their champion. If otherwise, I shall close my political life with the honest conviction that by securing to you a freedom of selection I have done my duty to my county.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your very faithful servant,

THOMAS B. WESTERN.
Felix Hall, Kelvedon, March 20th 1865.

A FANCY BAZAAR, in aid of the extinction of the DEBT on the CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, LEWISHAM HIGH ROAD (Pastor, Rev. GEORGE MARTIN), will be held in the GROUNDS adjoining STONE HOUSE, on WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, and FRIDAY, 14th, 15th, and 16th of June.

W. ANGERSTEIN, Esq., M.P., has kindly consented to open the Bazaar.

The Band of the Coldstream Guards will be in attendance each day. Open from Two o'clock until Ten—will be lighted at dusk.

Tickets of admission, 1s. each, or 2s. 6d. each for the three days. Children, half-price.

N.B.—The Grounds are situated in the Upper Lewisham-road, about ten minutes' walk from the New Cross Station, on the North and Mid-Kent Railways. Trains are continually running from Charing-cross and London-bridge.

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T. BARON HART, Minister.

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On and after SATURDAY, 24th June, all Communications should be addressed to the Secretaries at 2, JOHN-STREET, BEDFORD-ROW, W.C.

FREDERICK TRESTRAIL, } Secretaries.
E. B. UNDERHILL, } E. B. UNDERHILL.

BRITISH and IRISH BAPTIST HOME MISSION.

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On and after the 24th of JUNE, Correspondents are respectfully requested to address all communications to the Mission House, 2, JOHN STREET, BEDFORD-ROW, LONDON, W.C.

CHARLES KIRTLAND, Secretary.

NEW COLLEGE, LONDON.

The FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the COLLEGE, FINCHLEY NEW ROAD, on FRIDAY, June 23rd, at Six o'clock, the Rev. THOS. BINNEY in the Chair. One of the Senior Students will read an Essay on "Myles Coverdale." The Certificates of Honour obtained in the Examinations of the year, and the Presents of Books from the Selwyn Fund to Students leaving the College, will be distributed by the Chairman. Other Ministers and gentlemen are expected to take part in the proceedings.

Tea and coffee will be served from Five till Six o'clock.

The attendance of Subscribers and Friends of the College is respectfully invited.

W. FARRER, LL.B., Secretary.

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ANNIVERSARY SERVICE.

THURSDAY, June 22nd, Rev. SAMUEL MARTIN, of Westminster, will Preach in the Evening at Seven o'clock. Tea at Five o'clock.

An Omnibus will start from Chalk Farm at Four p.m., and return about Half-past Eight.

MILL-HILL SCHOOL, near HENDON, MIDDLESEX.

The FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY of the above School will be held at the Institution on TUESDAY next, the 20th inst. Two Tickets of admission, not transferable, will be presented to Parents of Pupils in the school intending to be present, on application to the Rev. THOMAS REED, at Mill-Hill. The Life Governors are respectfully reminded that they are each entitled to one Ticket gratis, and possess the right to purchase another, price Five Shillings.

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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXV.—NEW SERIES, No. 1024.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1865.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

A SUPERFINE REASON FOR A BAD THING.

GIVEN a strong determination to uphold a system unjust on the face of it, and found to work little else besides mischief, you may almost surely calculate upon remote but philosophic reasons being offered you in the last resort why that particular system, in its essence at least, should remain untouched. It was Mr. Disraeli, we think, who first broached the notion that the abolition of Church-rates would destroy the machinery of local self-government, and, by so doing, seriously impair the value of the British Constitution. The objection was so novel and so highly ingenious that, whilst generally admired, it produced very little, if any, practical effect. Parishioners who had long since got rid of the ecclesiastical impost could not be persuaded that they had lost a valuable privilege, while such as were unable to record their votes against it, lest they should bring down upon themselves the wrath of the clergyman and squire, seldom reconciled themselves to their helpless position by the thought that they were retaining an inestimable birthright. Mr. Disraeli's reason for perpetuating what a large majority of Englishmen had come to regard as a social nuisance, setting neighbours together by the ears, and exhibiting Christianity in a strangely distorted light, was a very excellent one—very—but unfortunately it did not take hold upon the common mind. The want of result is easily accounted for. A vestry meeting for the purpose of laying a Church-rate is held even in those parishes in which the system is continued only once a year. It is attended by scarcely anybody but the clergyman and the churchwardens in places where the rate is customarily unopposed. Where there is a contest, it is remarkable for nothing but a disagreeable struggle between clerical assumption on the one hand and an indignant sense of injustice on the other. As the one thing, therefore, which vestry meetings are summoned to do is not by any means a popular thing, and as the mode of transacting that special business is in many cases a mere formality, and in the rest an unseemly squabble, parishioners could not be got to attach historical importance to the exercise of their ancient right, and Mr. Disraeli's recondite objection to the abolition of Church-rates glittered for a moment, and then vanished from public view.

Just on the eve of a General Election, and after a considerable majority, perhaps, of intending candidates have issued their Addresses, almost every one of which contains some reference to Church-rates, the Rev. J. Llewellyn Davies, in a letter to one of our hebdomadal contemporaries, revives, in a slightly modified form, Mr. Disraeli's superfine argument for retaining them. "The abolition of Church-rates," he

says, "would be virtually an act of disfranchisement. The rights at present exercised by the ratepayers in consideration of the levying of a Church-rate may be thought unimportant or insufficient, but it is to be remembered that they relate to matters which come home very closely to the inhabitants of parishes, and which excite more interest than any others in the mind of the average Englishman. To have something to say in a local religious matter may be more to the common ratepayer than his share of interest and power in a great national question." Yes, "may be"—we admit the possibility—but how stands the fact? "The power of making or refusing a Church-rate," continues Mr. Davies, "diffuses amongst the parishioners a sense of part-membership in their parish church. . . . It gives them a moral right of censorship, which extends beyond their legal authority, and furnishes occasions for expressing their opinions in local church matters. . . . To abolish the Church-rate is to transfer this power from the body of parishioners to those who may voluntarily find the funds for maintaining the fabric and expenses of the Church. From what I have seen I think it at least doubtful whether democratic Englishmen would relish the bargain which relieves them of the necessity of paying a rate, but at the same time takes away their immemorial vestry rights in parish churches."

We confess to a twinge of reluctance at disturbing this pretty theory. Still, it is as well, at whatever cost, to let undeniable facts throw what light they can upon even a good man's imaginings. We put it to Mr. Davies whether "Democratic Englishmen," such as he has in his mind's eye, are not usually the inhabitants of our more populous towns, in almost every one of which Church-rates have been abolished. Abolished by whom, let us ask. By Conservatives? By Conservative Liberals? By Whigs of the old school? By anti-Democratic Liberals? Why should we think for "Democratic Englishmen" when they have given us full proof that they have thought for themselves? If they do "not relish the bargain they have made in relieving themselves of the necessity of paying a rate," why do they not return to "their immemorial vestry rights"? They can do so at any time if they will, but they show no symptom of a wish to reclaim their disused privilege. Mr. Davies must pardon us for being guided in our judgment of the state of opinion and feeling far more by what "Democratic Englishmen" say for themselves in the most practical fashion, namely, by their deeds, than by what *he thinks* they might say. He is tolerant, however. He is willing that "all who claim exemption as not conforming to the Church be excused from the payment of the rate." What is this but the very transfer which he thinks it so important to prevent? Does he imagine that any who are "excused from payment" will avail themselves of their "immemorial vestry right," or will be legally allowed to do so, when the only occasion for the exercise of them is the making or refusing of a rate? And if not, will not the "moral right of censorship" which, by-the-bye, is in all rural parishes about as valuable as a man's right to keep an elephant, be confined to those who "find the funds for maintaining the fabric and expenses of the Church"? Whether they do so "voluntarily" or not will be quite immaterial as it regards this particular result.

In case of the abolition of Church-rates, Mr. Davies says, "Churchmen will lose two comforts—one, that of grumbling about being made to pay; the other, that of knowing a churlish neighbour is also made to pay." Amiable weaknesses, no doubt, which the law ought to indulge, and which illustrate with vivid impressiveness the attractive aspects of subjective Christianity! We wonder what Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by would say of this privilege. But, the strength of his case, if only it were sustained by a reasonable body of facts, is that by retaining the Church-rate system, you retain also "some municipal control in local church affairs." But

is not this a figment? Is there practically the slightest difference between the restraint exercised by parishioners on their clergy in places where Church-rates are abolished, and that brought to bear upon them in places where they are retained. Our observation and experience would lead us to say most decidedly that there is none. It is useless to argue upon cases which have no existence but in the imagination of a partisan. The exemption of Dissenters will not settle the controversy. And we fancy that the preponderant decision of the electors of England and Wales will once more reject all schemes of compromise, and insist upon total, immediate and unconditional abolition.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

ARCHBISHOP MANNING, having received what no doubt he considers to be a fitting reward for the zeal with which he has pushed, or attempted to push, the interests of the Roman Catholic Church in England since his natural and easy change from Anglicanism to Romanism, has thought proper to issue a pastoral letter to the clergy and faithful of his diocese. The new Archbishop was not wanting in courage when he was an Anglican clergyman, and he is not wanting in that virtue now. He commences his letter by flouting the Ecclesiastical Titles Act—for which we do not blame him—and styling himself at once "Archbishop Elect of Westminster." The Archbishop, therefore, may be said to begin his reign by a contemptuous kick at this blundering piece of legislation. The *Record*, perhaps, will call him to order for thus violating a weak and ridiculous law; but in the prospect of a general election, neither the author of the Durham Letter, nor any other member of the present Cabinet, is likely to put that law in force.

We next turn to the contents of this pastoral epistle. The first paragraph—a rather long one—is devoted to a statement of the Archbishop's own personal humility, from which we gather, what no one would have suspected, that the Archbishop, instead of having a slight resemblance to Laud ecclesiastically, and to Antonelli politically, is the most modest and the humblest man on the earth. We are not less surprised to find that he has been "elected," with "child-like docility," by his chapter, it being commonly supposed that his Grace was not elected at all. From himself he passes to his Church, and assures the world that it is "majestic and changeless from age to age," and that "the same Divine faith, the same mind, the same Catholic spirit, with all its delicacy of instinct and sensitive purity, guides and sustains the Church in England, as in Rome, in this nineteenth century, as in the first." (!) We read, and can only ask why the Archbishop does not prevent such writing from getting into the newspapers—why, with his customary astuteness, he does not write one letter for the Catholics and one for the Protestants; when, if he were denounced as a rogue, he certainly would not be considered a dunce.

Now we come to two important passages, in which all Englishmen may take an interest. In the first, the Archbishop defines the respective degrees of duty owing to the Church and to the law:—

In the supernatural order the Church of our native land; in the natural, our mother country. We love both, but with a discriminating charity; the higher and the lower with a due and proportionate subordination. There can be no collision between these two orders of duty, unless the one or the other deviate from the principles of its constitution. This the Church of God cannot do. This, alas! three hundred years ago, our rulers and country did. It is, unhappily, thereby at variance with the first principles of the unity, authority, and infallibility of the Church of God, which are more precious than life itself. The Catholic Church in England would not be aggressive, if England were within the light and unity of the Catholic Church. We have no aggressive aims but those which inspired the Apostles when they went forth to convert the world, and to

gather the nations into the benedictions and the peace of eternal life.

Here we notice two things: first, a regret that the state of things which existed three hundred years ago does not exist now. The Archbishop, in his holy zeal, sighs after a return of the days of "Bloody Mary." Secondly, it is to be noticed that in that case the Church would have no "aggressive aims," by which mild and periphrastic expression is, we suppose, to be understood, the halter, the rack, the thumb-screw, and the stake. "Aggressive aims"! "Don't talk of murder," said Sir John Raming, in "The Maid of Perth," "we only say he will cease to live"; and persecution, in the new Catholic Archbishop's dictionary, is simply a phrase synonymous with "aggressive aims."

For the Catholic Church is such a charitable Church. It does not do such a common place thing as to speak truth without love; for "truth without charity wounds, inflames and repels." It does not exhibit even an evil temper or a harsh voice, for its weapons are not "personal heat, or biting words, or asperity of tone," but "charity and patience." And with these weapons Archbishop Manning is of opinion that England can be conquered to the Roman Catholic faith in another generation. "For," he says, when another generation has effaced the wounds of old prejudices, it is *certain* that the common sense, just judgment and straightforward manliness of Englishmen will turn to the only voice in the midst of them which never falters, to the only system which is coherent and true to itself."

We quote these words, but need we say that we are not alarmed at them? Jefferson Davis's bravest speech was made and the North most vauntingly defied just when it was very certain that the Confederacy could not hold together another month. An extravagant document like this makes no converts, but only excites derision. We suspect that Archbishop Manning will die a wiser man than he is now. In proportion as free institutions spread in a country; as literature circulates; as liberty of thought is exercised and liberty of speech indulged, in that proportion will any exclusive and tyrannical system like that of Roman Catholicism die out. It has no air to feed upon, or not enough of the character necessary to sustain it. This is the case in Italy and in the United States, where Romanism has lost some millions of adherents, and so one may safely feel, would it be the case in this country. It had had here, the unusual advantage of nursery-grounds and forcing-pits supplied by the State in the form of an Established Church, but as it is not likely to have these for ever, it may be left to take its final chance. It will only conquer those who are afraid of it.

It is clear that all Parliamentary candidates are persuaded of the settlement of the Church-rate question by the next Parliament. Scarcely an address appears without a word upon it. Our columns this week show that there is not much variety of expression. The candidates may be classified into four divisions,—those who will vote for total abolition, to which at least three fourths of the Liberal candidates are now pledged; those who will vote for abolition if no other satisfactory settlement can be made, and who, therefore, will rank by-and-bye with the first division; those who would "exempt" Dissenters; and those who would sustain the fabric of the Church. The last two sections are all Tories, and thus far has the Tory party advanced since only the last General Election. It is noticeable, however, that the only Ministerial address which has appeared, that, viz., of Mr. Cardwell, makes no reference to this subject. Mr. Brand certainly avows himself in favour of unconditional abolition, and his words are, of course, not without some political significance, but we yet wait, and perhaps we shall wait, for a Ministerial address of any consequence in which justice to Nonconformists will be alluded to. Not that much stress is to be laid on Cabinet pledges, or that they would be of the smallest value to us, but the absence of them will most certainly excite remark.

We find that the *Liberator* of this month contains reports of nearly thirty Church-rate contests in vestries and law courts. At Great Berkhamsted the rate was carried by 207 to 173 votes; but there was a majority of six voters against it. At Shaldon the rate was defeated after a stormy contest by 97 to 94 votes. At St. Michael's, Derby, it was carried by a majority of only two votes. At Bromley the Church party have decided not to enforce the rate on Dissenters, and there is therefore a truce. At Alesiter the rate was carried by two votes. "The screw," it is said, "is remorselessly applied in this neighbourhood, where tenants are threatened with eviction if they refuse to pay the rate." At Stone, in Staffordshire, the rate was lost. As a contrast to these cases, we

notice the intelligence from Egremont, Cumberland, where the churchwardens, at the late vestry-meeting, said "that their labours in the collection of the voluntary rate were light compared with the old system, under which the churchwardens would make at least five hundred calls, and many of them twice over, occupying twelve long half-days, besides having to endure much contempt and ridicule. The present rate has been obtained under very different circumstances, it having, indeed, been a pleasure for the wardens to call upon loyal Church friends, who universally expressed their happiness to support the Establishment. But more than that; some Dissenters expressed their desire to support the Church in a voluntary way, and their donations were thankfully received." At Winwick, also, the vicar has become a convert to the voluntary principle, and has expressed the hope that no more Church-rates would be attempted in the parish. In all the cases brought before the magistrates—at Hove, Cambridge, Henworth, West Malling, Southwark, Farnham, and Blaby—the anti-rate party succeeded in defeating the churchwardens. We commend the intelligence from Egremont to the *Clerical Journal*, which, in a leading article in its last number, remarks that in the parishes in which a Church-rate cannot be obtained, "the office of churchwarden is not only onerous, but often most painful and disagreeable."

And this is written on the presumption that it will be accepted as a faithful picture:—

The difficulty quite as often arises from men who attend church regularly, and who have actually used the things for which the money is required. We know of large farmers refusing to contribute voluntarily, who, with a rate, would have paid four or five pounds. Now, the churchwarden in going round with his book, and while using all his influence and eloquence to extract shillings and half-crowns from the parishioners, is entertained with the sort of talk which voluntaryism delights in, such as the effects of the clergyman, the unreasonable amount of his tithes, and similar topics. And, after all this, the collection is deficient, and he has to go round again, or ask the clergyman to give him a sermon and an offertory collection. This is poor, miserable work for the Established Church of a great country.

So it is! and how convincingly it proves the attachment of the people to the Church!

The *Record* is becoming Liberal, and is actually willing to give up fighting for the "Conscience Clause." Writing of the Meeting of the National Society, our hitherto most bigoted of the clerical journals now says:—

No doubt many subscribers to the Society, like the Bishop of Sodor and Man, are prepared to go all lengths with their theory, and to see the parish school half emptied of its scholars rather than resign the privilege of compelling all who attend to learn the catechism and go to church. We admit that this Prelate is consistent in his opinions. If we remember rightly, when this subject was mooted some years ago, he boasted that rather than give up the principle, he had positively closed his schools, and then reopened them on the express condition that every child thenceforward admitted must learn the Catechism. But we have never understood that Warrington became a stronghold of the Church in consequence, or that the number of Dissenters in the place showed signs of serious diminution. Surely it is far better to decide the question by the light of common sense instead of standing upon a theory which is impossible of realisation, notwithstanding all that the Bishop of Sodor and Man and Archdeacon Denison may say to the contrary. We cannot endorse the Bishop of Oxford's opinion as to the desirability of giving mere education if the Dissenters will take no more, nor would the conscience clause happily admit of it, for it requires daily instruction in the Scriptures as one of the conditions of the Government grant. It gives the master and the clergyman a range of religious instruction wide enough to embrace all the fundamentals of Christian faith and practice, and full liberty, where no objection is made by the parents, to teach out of the Church Catechism and the Prayer-book to any extent they please. With this we think Churchmen may be content to rest satisfied.

It is odd, after this, to find, if we are to believe the *Guardian*, that the Dissenters have never made a difficulty in this matter, and that there has therefore been no necessity for this clause at all. Our contemporary says that the Dissenters have "never asked for it," and that "Dissenters in general do not desire to be protected against the Catechism and the Prayer-book." One section of Dissenters—not of course comprehended in the word "General"—are however acknowledged to be hostile enough. These are the Baptists, about whom the High-Church organ writes as follows:—

The Baptists, in particular, avow their undisguised hostility to the Church and everything connected with it. We have heard from Baptist agents language as bitter and violent as anything that the strongest Romanists are wont to say against the English Church. And we have no doubt but that unscrupulous Baptist partisans would use the Conscience Clause simply as a means of interrupting the discipline, and disturbing the harmony, of any school in which it gave them a legal right of interference. This, indeed, is one powerful reason why school-managers prefer to keep the admission, or exclusion, of Dissenters within their own control. They receive them at present without prejudice to their own just authority over the working of the school. On the vantage-ground of a Conscience Clause, the children—or rather the busy preachers who make use of them

—would be masters of the situation. Better far—so the founders of Church schools are beginning to reason—to make shift to raise a humble school with diminished resources, in which children can be assembled in peace and quietness to be instructed how to walk in the old paths, than to obtain by Government aid a loftier and more imposing building, in which a single noisy controversialist may at any time have it in his power to introduce strife and disorder into the whole institution. Better, in other words, to rank with the Baptists and have no State aid at all.

THE NONCONFORMISTS OF LONDON AND THEIR INSTITUTIONS.

In the last number of the *London Review*, the writer, who is examining the religious work of the Established Church, takes a general survey of the operations carried on by the Dissenters of London. He concludes that the Established Church has far less to fear in the metropolis from the antagonism of Roman Catholics than of Dissenters, amongst whom, he says, "we find not only an energy quite equal to that of the Roman Catholics, and an organisation as perfect, but a success before which all the advantage gained by the Roman Church appears utterly insignificant":

Any one who fancies that they are a body to be despised, on personal or educational grounds, is excessively mistaken; and it is to be regretted that there exists in the minds of many members of the Church of England a most erroneous impression in both these respects. Ladies especially seem to form their idea of Dissenting ministers from the caricatures they have read in the pages of the fashionable novelists and satirists of the day. We can assure our fair readers that neither the Rev. Melchisedech Howler, the Rev. Dismal Horrors, nor the Rev. Mr. Stiggins, is the type of the London Dissenting ministers of the present day; on the contrary, the majority of them are as learned and correct a body of gentlemen as those of the Church of England, and, as a rule, more eloquent in the pulpit. It is again a notion prevalent amongst some at least of the clergy of the Established Church, that the Nonconformist ministers habitually neglect the interests both spiritual and temporal of their poor, confining their ministrations solely to the middle and respectable classes of society, and that they are especially indifferent on the subject of charity. The first idea seems to have arisen from certain Government documents, which appear to prove that the erection of Dissenting places of worship in poor neighbourhoods is by no means in proportion with the increase of the population, but that they rather fall off; and several chapels are quoted in poor localities that have been closed, while in wealthier ones new and handsome chapels have been erected, fully commensurate with the wants of their congregations. This objection may at first sight appear to be true, but a little inquiry into the question will soon prove it to be incorrect. The congregations and schools attached to Dissenting chapels are by no means indicative of the number of the members connected with them, or of the pupils under instruction. To one Dissenting chapel there are frequently many rooms hired in the neighbourhood as temporary places of worship and for the purpose of schools, and the number of children who attend the latter might seem incredible or exaggerated to any one who has not inquired personally into the subject. It should also be remembered that the Dissenting bodies, as a rule, attach but little importance to outward show, although the beauty of some of their places of worship lately erected might justify a different opinion.

In reference to a current belief that Dissenters care little for the temporal wants of their poor, he says it is exceedingly unjust—

So unjust, indeed, that many names of Dissenters might be quoted—Messrs. Gurney, Morley, and several others—who are among the most generous contributors to all charitable undertakings. The amount subscribed by the congregations of many of the minor Dissenting chapels for the relief of the poor is astonishingly liberal, and would contrast favourably with the collections made at the most fashionable of our West-end churches. As for the sums given by those attending them re-celebrated of the Dissenting places of worship, in point of liberality the Church has nothing to equal them. Again, the Dissenters are possibly more energetic than we are in that most useful of all modes of distributing charity—that of helping the poor to help themselves, by finding them employment; though, perhaps, as a vast proportion of the wealthy Dissenters are engaged in trade and manufactures, they have greater opportunities than are possessed by the majority of the members of the Church of England.

The energy and success of Dissenters in inducing "strangers," by which expression we suppose is meant the neighbouring population, to join their congregations, is described as "truly wonderful." The converts made by "Roman Catholics are numerically trifling" to those which have been made by Dissenters, though the latter adopt no very ostentatious means. "Clergy and laity," it is said, "go steadily and quietly to their work, they blow no trumpet before them, but the amount of labour they go through is truly marvellous." The writer then gives a sketch of the operations of some of the largest churches in London—those, indeed, which have lately engaged our attention—with a remark, that though there are the most conspicuous, there are many others scarcely less energetic; and the readers of the *London Review* are referred to the columns of the *Nonconformist* for further particulars. The question is asked whether it is possible for the Established Church in London to make head against such opponents, without more activity and ability on the part of the clergy than are seen among them at the present day?

We gladly admit the zeal of many of them; but these exceptional instances only prove that men may be found among our clergy capable of as great an amount of energy as can be seen either among Dissenters, Roman

Catholics, or the priesthood of any other creed in the world. We might select as examples the East-end clergy, the result of whose labours is wonderful, when we take into consideration the fearful mass of poverty, ignorance, and demoralisation they have to contend with, and the small means at their disposal. But their numbers are too limited and the incomes of the incumbents too niggardly to allow them to employ a sufficient staff of curates as energetic as themselves to carry on the duties of their districts. And although the Dissenters and Roman Catholics gain nothing on the Church of England congregations, they have still ample opportunity among the thousands untaught to make immense progress, and the Dissenters especially very properly profit by it."

The *London Review* thinks that the Established Church has most to fear from the increasing energy of Dissenters in respect to schools for the working classes, and says—though we doubt the accuracy of the statement, so far as day-schools are concerned—that "there are at present more children in the Dissenting schools than in those under Government inspection; and it is doubtful whether there are not more pupils being educated in principles adverse to the organisation of the Established Church, if not its doctrines, than in our National Schools and those of the Roman Catholics put together." This state of things is attributed rather to the shortcomings of the Established clergy and those in authority than "to any superior attraction in the doctrines taught by the Dissenting ministers."

The writer thinks, therefore, that if the Established Church is to hold her own in the metropolis, she must gird herself for the task; and points to the successful schools of the Rev. W. Rogers, at St. Thomas's Charterhouse, and of the Rev. George McGill, in the Christchurch district of St. George's-in-the-East, as proofs of what clergymen can do if they act with energy and tact, and live on terms of good fellowship with their neighbours. It is stated that the two schools of Mr. Rogers and Mr. McGill, including national, Sunday, evening, and ragged schools, muster between them from 3,500 to 4,000 pupils, "a far greater number than can be found in any two Dissenting schools, each immediately under the direction of its minister, in the metropolis." This is a mistake. In connection with Surrey Chapel there are Sunday-schools for 5,463 children, besides day-schools in which about 800 receive education. In the various schools connected with Union Chapel 2,353 children receive instruction. The following tabular statement of the attendance at schools connected with some of the principal Nonconformist churches will shew that the *London Review* is not far wrong in its statement relative to the educational institutions of Dissenters:—

	Day-scholars.	Sunday-scholars.
Surrey Chapel	800	5,463
Union Chapel, Islington	696	1,660
Park Chapel, Camden Town	500	700
Kentish Town Congregational Church	500	800
Craven Chapel	400	800
Kennington Chapel	326	684
Bethnal-green Chapel	600	1,200
Stepney Meeting	1,200	1,200
Mile-end New Town Chapel	300	1,000
York-road Chapel, Lambeth	360	840
Mare-street Chapel, Hackney	—	1,000
Poultry Chapel	200	1,000
Wycliffe Chapel	600	650
Bloomsbury Chapel	200	732
Total	6,672	17,729

CHURCH-RATES AND THE EXEMPTION OF DISSENTERS.*

The admirable dialogue between a Parliamentary candidate and a Nonconformist elector which appeared in the *Christian Spectator*, and to which we referred in our last number, we now transfer entire to our columns, as well adapted for perusal and wide circulation at the present time:—

Candidate—I have called, Mr. Elector, to express the hope that I shall have your vote at the coming election.

Elector—With all my heart, Sir; I have voted for every Liberal candidate for the last thirty years, and I shall esteem it a privilege to vote for you. I consider the possession of the franchise a great trust. All our laws depend upon the manner in which that trust is discharged.

Candidate—I am deeply obliged, and more than obliged; for I have been a good deal discouraged in my canvassing. I understand that you are a Nonconformist, and that you have some influence with other Nonconformist electors. I am sorry to say that many of these are reluctant in promising me their support, and if they should continue in their present opinions, the result of the election will be rather doubtful. I mention this in confidence, and, as one of the old Liberals of the borough, you will not, of course, repeat it. I cannot remove their objections; but if they know that you are going to vote for me perhaps they will relinquish them. I wish you were on my committee, and I must tell Mr. Liberal that he has been guilty of a great oversight in not asking you to serve. But it is not too late. I am sure you will not refuse me?

Elector—Oh, Sir, Mr. Liberal knows that my vote is safe, and that if anything should be wanted from me, I shall be ready to do it without being placed on the committee. But I cannot understand what you say. The Nonconformists not vote for you? Why, Sir, they are all liberal to the backbone. What is it they object to?

Candidate—They object to my views on the Church-rate question.

Elector—But why? I am sorry I could not be at your meeting, but I have read your speech, and I do not see

anything to object to. Ah! here it is. You say you will "support the principles of religious liberty"; that you "disapprove of persecution for religious opinions"; and that you will be glad to see an "equitable settlement of the Church-rate question." That is all we want, Sir. The late member voted with us on all ecclesiastical measures. I do not think he was once absent from a division on Sir John Trelawny's bill. Of course you believe in the abolition of Church-rates?

Candidate—Well, Mr. Elector, I am a Churchman, and I do not think they ought to be abolished; but I am in favour of the exemption of Dissenters. I would relieve every man from payment of this rate who could state that he conscientiously objected to paying it, and I do not think more ought to be asked.

Elector—Now I understand why the persons to whom you referred just now decline to support you, and I quite agree with them. We can exempt ourselves without any act of Parliament. I am sorry that I must recall my promise to vote for you, but I am more sorry that any person should present himself before the Liberals of this borough who is not willing to vote for religious liberty. I must say, Sir, that I think you are sailing under false colours. You are not in favour of religious liberty, and it is a stretch of language to call yourself, in these days, a Liberal. With your views, you will vote with the Tories, if you should be returned to Parliament, on the only questions that now divide the two political parties.

Candidate—Excuse me, for a moment. I stated plainly in my address that I should go into Parliament as a follower of Lord Palmerston, and he does not support your measures.

Elector—Well, there are Liberals like Mr. Bright who say that Lord Palmerston is only a warming-pan for Mr. Disraeli, and there are Tories like Mr. Du Cane who say that he is a very good Conservative, but you are more Conservative than he is. He has never, in all the nine divisions on Sir John Trelawny's bill that have taken place during the present Parliament voted against it, and he has four times in this Parliament voted for it. So you will not even be a follower of Lord Palmerston on this question.

Candidate—Well, I suppose Lord Palmerston has succumbed to political exigencies or to public opinion; but, as I said before, I am a Churchman, and I cannot vote for abolition.

Elector—A Churchman? So are more than three hundred of the members of the House of Commons who have voted with Sir John Trelawny. I am almost surprised to hear that you are a Churchman when you say that you are in favour of the exemption of Dissenters.

Candidate—Why?

Elector—Because you will not find even the clergy with you. When Canon Miller was examined before the House of Lords' Committee he said, "I have never mentioned the exemption plan in a large company of clergymen and found it received with anything like the favour with which I have been led to regard it myself. I believe it is our only chance, and if it be not followed the rate is gone."

Candidate—Exactly so, and so do I.

Elector—Just so. Now I see where you are. Most certainly I shall not vote for you.

Candidate—But have you no other objection? Because it strikes me that you talk only as a Dissenter, and I cannot be expected to sympathise with you.

Elector—Well, to repeat your own language, all the Liberals in the borough sympathise with me, that is to say with my views, and about three hundred and forty Liberal members of Parliament sympathise with them. I do not think, therefore, that they are merely Dissenting views. As you do not seem to know that there are other objections, I will give them in the language of Churchmen. Archdeacon Hale put one objection very strongly in his examination before the Lords' Committee. He said, "I do not see why a principle should be applied to the Church which it is impossible to apply to other State matters. It would be introducing into English jurisprudence a perfectly new principle, and I think one very dangerous to the State." Of course it would. If the State should recognise the validity of the objection of an individual person to pay a tax because he does not approve of it, there would very soon be an end of all taxation. Mr. Walpole, in introducing his bill in 1859, took the same view when he said, "If you admit the principle in this instance you must also admit it in reference to the general taxation of the country."

Candidate—Stop a moment. Mr. Walpole's bill exempted Dissenters.

Elector—I know that; for, after arguing against any admission of such a principle, Mr. Walpole said that the Government were willing to "concede it as a favour to Dissenters, but not as a right."

Candidate—And so am I.

Elector—Thank you, but I want no favour from you; and no Dissenter worth the name would accept exemption as such. But allow me to go on. In the debate on this very bill I find Lord John Russell objecting to it because it would "deprive the Church of the character of a National Church." Archdeacon Sandford, in his evidence before the Lords' Committee, took a still stronger objection, for he considered that it would "operate as a premium on Dissent, and work very injuriously to the interest of the Church."

Candidate—I am surprised, Mr. Elector, that under such circumstances you do not favour such a scheme.

Elector—I am surprised, Sir, that under such circumstances you should favour it. My objections are different from these. In the first place, I object to being "ticketed." If you are in favour of ticketing, ticket yourselves. I am not ashamed of my principles; every person in the borough knows that I am a Dissenter; but I will never put my name to a paper asking relief from taxation because I am a Dissenter. What right have you to demand it, or to put me to that trouble? But I also object because I do not approve of any coercion in matters of religion. I do not think that the State has any business to say to any man that he shall pay exactly so much to the support of religious worship, and I think my fellow-ratepayers have still less right to say it. What I give, I give of my own conscience or inclination. No other gift is acceptable to God.

Candidate—But we are not asking you to give, Mr. Elector. You actually seem to object to Churchmen taxing themselves.

Elector—That is a new phrase, and it is a plausible one, Sir, but only plausible. In the sense in which you use it, I certainly do object to Churchmen taxing them-

selves. I object, as a religious man, as I have already said, to any taxation for religious purposes, but as a citizen I object quite as strongly to arming your sect, or any sect, with such a power. Why should it be granted to Episcopalians? Did you ever hear of such a thing, in all constitutional history, as a portion—not more than half—of a nation having exclusive compulsory powers conferred upon them? What would you say if the Wesleyan Conference or the Congregational Union were to apply to the State for the power compulsorily to tax their members for the support of their form of worship, and to distract upon their goods if they would not or could not pay? I think you would stand aghast at the impudence and arrogance of the demand, and rightly so. I am not amazed that such a demand should be made by the Church. Dissenters are accustomed to such pretensions, but willingly to put up with and sanction them is what you can no more expect us to do than I could expect you to concede compulsory powers to the deacons of the church which I attend. As for taxing yourselves in the only lawful way, all I can say is, the more you do it the better all right-minded Nonconformists will be pleased. I tax myself every quarter, and sometimes oftener, and you can do the same.

Candidate—Well, Mr. Elector, I see we are not likely to agree, and I had better wish you good morning. If I cannot quite follow Lord Palmerston, I can, at any rate, follow Mr. Gladstone.

Elector—Are you willing then to make a speech in favour of the admission of Dissenters to churchyards on equal terms with Churchmen—in short, to support Sir Morton Peto's Burials Bill?

Candidate—Certainly not. I am surprised that you should ask me such a question.

Elector—But don't you remember that Mr. Gladstone has done that?

Candidate—Ahem! I quite forgot.

Elector—Why, Sir, so far from being as liberal as Lord Palmerston or even Mr. Gladstone, you are not as liberal as the late Conservative Home Secretary, Mr. Sotheron Estcourt. In his examination before the Lords' Committee, Mr. Estcourt said that he would have "liberty granted to any person not to pay who had no mind to pay."

Candidate—But that would be no rate at all.

Elector—Exactly so.

Candidate—Then I don't see the reason of making such a law. It's nonsense.

Elector—So it is, and I don't see the reason.

Candidate—Well, Mr. Elector, will you think the matter over, and see whether you can't vote?

Elector—The only thing, Sir, that I shall think over is whether I shall not work against you. I feel strongly on this question. You talk about being a Churchman. Let me quote to you what the highest officer of State in the land—the present Lord Chancellor—a Churchman and Liberal—said of Church-rates, in opposition to Mr. Walpole's bill and your scheme, in 1859:—"They are," he said, "the legitimate offspring, the direct progeny, of that old wicked principle of intolerance which compelled men in ancient times to adopt one mode of faith and one form of worship, and condemned them, if they resisted, to burning and torture. The Dissenter would not thank them for toleration, nor would he think the principle of religious equality completely established until relieved from every rag and vestige of the old system. He trusted that no Dissenter would accept such a miserable compromise as exemption, and that every man who took part in this contest would inscribe upon his flag the words, 'No compromise—absolute abolition!'" Now, I hope, you see why I cannot support you. You are forsaking both your leaders and your party; you are in favour of intolerance; you are demanding privileges for your own Church which, if another sect were to seek, you would reject with contempt; and you are supporting a principle which I feel to be as tyrannical as it is sinful. Apart from this, you are dividing the Liberal party in this borough. You may suit some constituents, but you will not suit us. You cannot be elected without the help of the Nonconformists. This help I hope and think you will not get. If we allow you to be defeated now, we shall not have another "Liberal" candidate of your stamp come before us again, for he will know beforehand that he has no prospect of success. I sincerely hope you will be defeated. I am not afraid of the "Liberal interest" in that event, for it will be afterwards undivided. No candidate will be introduced to the constituents who is not known to be favourable to the principles of religious equality.

Candidate—Well, Mr. Elector, you will never get elected.

Elector—We certainly shall not, Sir, if we support candidates like yourself—if that is what you mean; but we certainly shall get it if we return the right men to Parliament. Good morning, Sir.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY'S SPECIAL FUND.

(From the *Liberator*.)

There was no difference of opinion at the "Liberation Society's" recent Conference, as to the fitness of celebrating the society's twenty-first birthday by the attempt to raise a fund for the extension of its operations. Nor could more gratifying proof of the confidence reposed in the Executive Committee be furnished than the fact that, at the same meeting at which such a resolution was adopted, it was reported that more than half the required sum had been already promised. The Conference, therefore, did not end in words. The delegates who attended were practical men,—ready to do as well as to plan, and to give as well as to feel and think, wish and pray.

Speaking in the name of the Executive Committee, we express deep thankfulness for this decisive evidence of the society's vitality, and of the determination of its friends. Whatever effect it may have on the supporters of Church Establishments, it will put fresh heart into the supporters of Voluntaryism, wherever they are to be found. If, therefore, the raising of this fund involved nothing more than a demonstration of feeling, its value would be great. But it does involve more; since the increased pecuniary resources for which the executive now ask are absolutely necessary to enable them to prosecute their arduous work.

Let it be remembered that upwards of four hun-

* It will be seen from an advertisement elsewhere that the dialogue has been re-published as a cheap tract.

dred organisations have been created by the defenders of Church Establishments, expressly to counteract the society's influence. A general election is approaching, and facts have to be collected, constituencies to be visited, and information on ecclesiastical questions to be widely circulated. Both to promote the passing of the Church-rate Abolition Bill in a new Parliament, and to prevent the making of Church-rates in new parishes, fresh measures must be adopted to promote parochial agitation, and to make it an increasing means of furthering the society's ultimate aim. A new agitation against the Irish Church Establishment has commenced, and should be sustained by the society; and the *Regium Donum* and the Maynooth grant should be more energetically assailed. The society requires the services of one or more able lecturers; and numerous new publications, adapted to the circumstances of each part of the United Kingdom, are urgently required. And, in addition to these particular modes of action, the committee wish to be in a position to adopt with promptitude and boldness whatever measures may be called for by the circumstances of the times, which are admitted to be increasingly favourable for the advocacy of the society's views.

We are unable, in our present number, to find room for a list of the contributions to the fund, and must therefore be content to announce that the promises already received amount to rather more than 14,000*l.* That leaves above 10,000*l.* as the sum yet required to carry out the scheme; and now we have to appeal to all our readers for help—help in giving and help in getting. What has been already effected has been done by fewer than three hundred of the society's friends. Now our appeal is to the thousands who have not before had the opportunity of contributing. Those who can give but comparatively small sums will, we hope, not be deterred from contributing because they cannot give largely. The very poorest of our subscribers will, we should hope, be prepared to double their subscriptions. Spread over five years, the amount cannot be considered to be large; while the good which will be effected by the expenditure of the sum will be very great.

We trust that this year will ensure the complete success of the project, and hope that next month there will appear in our columns a list of promises far more lengthy than that which, as it has appeared in the public journals, has already gladdened the hearts of thousands of volunteers.

MACCLESFIELD AND THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

It will be remembered that in December last it was attempted to hold a meeting of the Liberation Society in Macclesfield, but that the uproarious conduct of the supporters of the Establishment prevented the delivering of the addresses of the deputation, Mr. Carvell Williams and the Rev. P. W. Clayden. Those gentlemen, however, published their intended speeches, which were widely circulated, and now another meeting, of a more successful character, has been held.

On Monday, the 5th inst., a meeting of the subscribers and friends of the society (reported in the *Macclesfield Observer*) was held in the Park Green Schoolroom. From 600 to 700 persons were present. The chair was taken by S. Jasper, Esq., who, after a few introductory remarks, called upon Mr. J. O. Nicholson to read the local report.

The report stated that the society numbered nearly 100, and the amount contributed from this auxiliary to the funds of the society during the past year was upwards of 30*l.* Regret was expressed that the society's opponents thought fit by the disturbance at the annual public meeting to stay the discussion and exposition of the society's principles, but it was a matter of thankfulness that the consequent notoriety had given prominence and interest to the society in the eyes of the townspeople and country generally. The report also stated that Macclesfield was represented at the recent conference in London by the Rev. James Maden, and Messrs. Joseph Wright, John Birchenough, and Clowes Orme. In conclusion redoubled efforts for the future were earnestly advocated.

Mr. George Kearley, of Manchester, the society's Lancashire agent, then delivered an address upon the workings of the society during its twenty-one years' existence, and its aims for the future. He thought, however, that Mr. Disraeli and his indiscreet followers in that town would yet find that the question was not settled—was not closed against discussion, but that it remained as the great question of the future, which year by year would grow in importance, until by-and-by, in the mature age perhaps of those who are now children, it came before the legislature for its definite and final settlement. Mr. Kearley's speech was listened to with manifest interest.

The Rev. James Maden then gave a short account of the proceedings at the London Conference, at which were present some 750 delegates. He alluded to the earnest speeches of the chairman (Mr. Miall), the Revs. G. W. Conder and C. Vince, and concluded by endeavouring to remove the misconception which existed in the minds of many persons as to the objects of the Liberation Society.

The meeting, having continued about two hours, concluded by the Rev. H. Hayward proposing, and the Rev. J. Moffatt seconding, a vote of thanks to Mr. Kearley, for his very able and lucid address, and by Mr. Wright proposing, and Mr. J. W. White seconding, a vote of thanks to Mr. Jasper for his presidency.

OPINIONS OF CANDIDATES ON ECCLESIASTICAL QUESTIONS.

We continue our extracts from the addresses and speeches of candidates at the general election bearing upon the ecclesiastical questions of the day:—

(SIR CHARLES BRIGHT, LIBERAL, WOOLWICH.)

He would vote for the abolition of Church-rates, but was opposed to any inquisitorial bill for an inspection of monastic establishments.

(MESSRS. MOFFATT AND MACKAY, LIBERALS, SOUTHAMPTON.)

As members of the Church of England, we deplore the existence of Church-rates, deeming the maintenance of any compulsory enactments in reference to those rates to be adverse alike to the interests of Churchmen and Dissenters, and we are, therefore, prepared to vote for their total abolition.

(RUSSELL GURNEY, Q.C., RECORDER OF LONDON, CONSERVATIVE, SOUTHAMPTON.)

While professing a sincere attachment to our National Church, I am not insensible to the importance of the great questions which are now agitated within and without her pale. I am anxious that the differences caused even among Churchmen themselves by the existing law relating to Church-rates should be settled, and that in that settlement the conscientious opinions of Dissenters should be regarded.

(MR. CHAPMAN, CONSERVATIVE, SALISBURY.)

He would also support the abolition of Church-rates if any plan could be devised for effecting it without injury to the rights of the Church.

(E. HAMILTON, LIBERAL, SALISBURY.)

The question of Church-rates will have to be dealt with by the new Parliament—in the present state of the law they cannot be enforced, and it is impossible to ignore the fact that they are regarded as a grievance by many millions of our fellow-countrymen. As a Churchman, I am unwilling to pledge myself to unconditional abolition until another effort has been made to effect a settlement by means of compromise.

(SHERIDAN, LIBERAL, DORCHESTER.)

I have always considered "the Church as an essential element in our Constitution," and should "any endeavour at any time be made to separate Church from State," I would most strenuously repel any attempt to effect such a revolution.

(F. W. TRUSCOTT, LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE, DUDLEY.)

The question of Church-rates is one that should be definitely settled; the heartburnings and discontent engendered by their continuance are in direct antagonism to that spirit of true Christianity of which the Church Universal is at once the authority and the teacher. If no satisfactory adjustment be possible, it were better that the maintenance of the Church should depend upon the voluntary support of Churchmen, rather than an impost should be perpetuated obnoxious to the conscientious scruples of our Dissenting brethren.

(C. G. DUPRE, CONSERVATIVE, BUCKS.)

I have strenuously resisted the attacks which have been incessantly directed against our most valued institutions in Church and State, but which have hitherto been baffled by the union and energy of the Conservative party.

(R. B. HARVEY, CONSERVATIVE, BUCKS.)

I have opposed any attempts to sever that union of Church and State to preserve which has always been the anxious care of a Conservative policy.

(LORD A. CLINTON, LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE, NEWARK.)

Fondly attached to the Church of England, and ever anxious to uphold her institutions, I would nevertheless recognise in all the rights of conscience, and would desire to promote the interests of civil and religious liberty.

(HON. GEO. BARRINGTON, CONSERVATIVE, NORTH DURHAM.)

Warmly attached to the Established Church of this kingdom, I nevertheless sincerely respect the conscientious scruples of those who dissent from her communion. I should hail with joy a satisfactory settlement of the question of Church-rates; but I could not vote for their total repeal until some legal means are provided for preserving the fabric of our venerable churches from decay.

(MR. DENT, LIBERAL, SCARBOROUGH.)

When he found that Church-rates were really an annoyance to his Dissenting brethren in the community, he candidly said that they really ought to do without this impost.

(LORD HENRY THYNNE, CONSERVATIVE, SOUTH WILTS.)

With regard to the question of Church-rates, while I will ever respect the conscientious scruples of those who dissent from the Church of England, I will never be a party to the releasing of property from its duty of supporting the fabric of our churches and maintaining the due and proper administration of public worship.

(MR. CANDLISH, LIBERAL, SUNDERLAND.)

On ecclesiastical questions the general principle that would guide me may be stated thus,—No man ought to enjoy any civil preference or reward, or suffer any civil disadvantage or penalty, on account of his religious belief. I am therefore opposed to Church-rates, and would vote for their immediate and unconditional repeal; believing them to be at once unjust to Dissenters, injurious to the Church, and a serious hindrance to the spread of Christian charity.

(LIEUT.-COLONEL TORRENS, LIBERAL, CAMBRIDGE.)

As a sincere Churchman, I desire to see the unconditional repeal of Church-rates, as, in my judgment, they occasion an amount of irritation and offence which far outweigh the pecuniary consideration at stake, even assuming, what is more than doubtful, that these rates can legally be recovered.

(G. O. TREVELYAN, LIBERAL, TYNEMOUTH.)

I am a frank and uncompromising advocate for the abolition of Church-rates.

(ALDERMAN HARTLEY, LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE, SUNDERLAND.)

As a member of the Established Church, I shall advocate all reforms calculated to increase her efficiency in working out her high mission; and, to relieve those who dissent from her doctrine or discipline, I am prepared to vote for the abolition of Church-rates, with the fullest

confidence that the free contributions of her members will more than fill up the void. Such an infusion of the voluntary element my experience gives me every confidence in believing will do her good service.

(W. D. CHRISTIE, LIBERAL, CAMBRIDGE.)

He now proposed to say a few words on Church questions. He voted with his friend, Sir J. Trelawny, for the abolition of Church-rates on the very first occasion when Sir John introduced his bill; and he would vote for the measure again. He sincerely regretted that the question had not long ago been settled. The sooner the question was settled and Church-rates abolished the better. He also had voted with the late Sir Henry Ward, for an inquiry as to the state of the Irish Church.

The position of the Irish Church, the Church of not more than one-seventh of the population of Ireland, with immense revenues and few communicants, was quite indefensible. All the leading members of the present Government were pledged by old votes and old speeches to reform the Irish Church; a recent speech of that distinguished man, Mr. Gladstone, showed that he would not shrink from dealing with the matter in the next Parliament. He had stated in his address that he was an enemy of all civil disabilities and distinctions founded on religious opinion. On this point he was enabled to appeal to past services as an earnest for the future. When he was in the House of Commons, he made a motion in 1843 for the admission of Dissenters to the University of Oxford, and for the admission of Dissenters to degrees in the University of Cambridge. In 1845 he made another motion, for the issue of a commission of inquiry into the present state of the Universities and Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. Those motions, supported by Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston, and by such men as Dean Peacock, Professor Henslow, Dr. Leapingwell, and Professor Baden Powell, of Oxford, out of the House, were resisted and defeated by Sir Robert Peel's Government, and the Conservative party then united under Sir Robert Peel. Since then much of what he had advocated had been carried out, and now Dissenters were admitted to both Universities and to degrees. But still something remained to be done, and if they sent him to Parliament he would eagerly help to do it. In the University of Oxford a test of Church-membership was required for the degree of Master of Arts. A bill had been proposed to remove this disability. He should vote for that bill. There was a clause in the Act of Uniformity which prevented the colleges from electing Dissenters, if they wished to do so, to fellowships. His old friend, Mr. Bouverie, had introduced a measure to rid them of this restriction, and he hoped the constituency of Cambridge would send him (Mr. Christie) to Parliament to support such a measure.

Let them consider what had already been done in the way of University reform. Had the Universities suffered from the admission of Dissenters to residence and degrees? He might safely challenge any one to say, and contradict any one who said, that the reforms in the Universities had been other than beneficial. He said this as a friend of the Universities—deeply attached to the University and to the College of which he was a member. No one indeed of right feeling, who had passed the best years of his youth in one of our Universities, could do otherwise than entertain sentiments of affection and respect for those venerable institutions. But with such a veneration should be combined a desire to see the Universities from time to time examined and improved by the new reformer's hand—adapted to altered times and wider wants and larger civilisation—a desire that the learning of this ancient seat of sound learning should minister to useful education and be made available to all—that the religion of this seat of religious education should be a religion of charity and toleration.

(F. MILLBANK, LIBERAL, NORTH RIDING, YORKSHIRE.)

On the question of Church-rates, Mr. Millbank said he had hoped and wished that some measure would have been brought in by Government in substitution of Church-rates. Such a measure should have his support, as a healing measure; but to dispel any doubt as to his opinions on this subject, he would say at once that he was in favour of the total abolition of Church-rates. He had put himself in communication with a great number of persons on this particular question, and the result was the receipt of as much correspondence as would fill a hat. He had deduced from it the conclusion that the Church of England would generally be better off without the compulsory rate than with it. In illustration of this he alluded to the case of one parish in the south of England, the income of which, under the compulsory system, amounted to 22*l.* per annum, while, since its adoption of the voluntary principle, that income had extended to no less than 1,400*l.* per annum. Out of the correspondence alluded to he could cite dozens of parishes that had been similarly benefited. He would say, himself being a member of the Church of England, that if no such healing measure as he should wish to see were brought forward, he should go for the total abolition of Church-rates.

(W. B. SIMONDS, CONSERVATIVE, WINCHESTER.)

I am a sincere and attached member of the Established Church, and I cannot support the abolition of Church-rates, unless some measure be devised satisfactory to the Established Church and acceptable to those who dissent from her tenets.

(T. MASON JONES, LIBERAL, COVENTRY.)

I am against Church-rates, and I am in favour of free religion,—I never mean to relax my efforts till Church-rates are abolished.

(W. TIDMAS, CONSERVATIVE, IPSWICH.)

The union between the Church and State appears to me to be of vital importance. The avowed enemies of the Church have recently proclaimed that in the unconditional abolition of Church-rates they wish to break the first link in the chain of that union. In legislating upon this subject, whilst I would gladly support any measure relieving the consciences of those who differ from the Established Church, I would scrupulously guard her nationality, and I am not without hope that the new Parliament will devise some measure, in lieu of Church-rates, for the maintenance of the fabrics of the Church.

(F. HERITAGE, CONSERVATIVE, BODMIN.)

The Church-rate question must be settled; it is creating dissatisfaction where none should exist. I would cheerfully support any scheme for such a settlement as would be acceptable to parties generally. A rate collection on a similar principle to that proposed by Mr. Newdegate would appear to me to be a feasible

djustment; indeed, anything but the total abolition and the voluntary system would meet with my approval, in the belief that there is an urgent necessity for Parliament to legislate on the subject without delay.

(LORD RANELAGH, CONSERVATIVE, BODMIN.)

The question of Church-rate is one, I confess, on which I feel some difficulty, and I am afraid that in Sir John Trelawny's neighbourhood you may have imbibed opinions heron which I do not and cannot hold. It is much to be regretted that this matter was ever made subservient to party feeling and caprice, for I believe a settlement agreeable to both sides may, and I trust will, be effected. I should never vote for their unconditional abolition, but I am quite prepared to support any Whig or Tory who will submit a reasonable and generally satisfactory measure, which, while relieving or partially relieving non-Churchmen, will not leave the House of God at the mercy of unadvised and unparaded contributions.

(MR. KEANE, Q.C., LIBERAL, BEVERLEY.)

He was of opinion that all denominations of religion ought to be equal. He thought that churches ought to be able to maintain themselves. In Beverley they were not troubled with Church-rates, but in many places they were, and he would ask them to support him in relieving others of this impost. "I feel assured that the Protestant Church, to which I am warmly attached, is exposed to considerable injury by disregarding the just claims of those who do not conform to it. The present law of Church-rates is unsatisfactory, and an undoubted grievance to many conscientious men, but in any legislation on this subject, I consider that provision should be made for the maintenance of the fabrics of our Church."

(ISAAC HOLDEN, LIBERAL, KNARESBOROUGH.)

I think legally enforced Church-rates an offence to many people who do not belong to the Church of England, and a cause of alienation to many of its poorer members, and therefore unfriendly to the legitimate beneficial influence of the Church on society. On these grounds I would vote for the abolition of Church-rates. He was not a member of the Church of England; nor did he think that he would be a worse man if he were a Churchman. He was a Wesleyan; and though he felt that he had no right to interfere with another man's religion, yet there was a political aspect of one religious question which he must look in the face. Perhaps it would have been better for the world if Government had never taken under its protection or wasted its bounty upon any religious body whatever. Still they had in England the great fact before them of a great Christian Church which had been supported by the Government for centuries; and if the country were deprived of the healthy, happy influence of that Church, it would be a great national calamity. But if he were to presume to advise the authorities and members of the Church of England, his advice would be that they should form themselves into an independent Church, make their own laws, decide their own ritual, and make all their own arrangements, without appealing to the temporal courts. Apart from that, however, there was one question which was pressing for solution. He thought that Church-rates were a great offence and injustice to a large portion of the community who did not belong to the Church of England. With equal sincerity he thought that Church-rates were the means of alienation to many of the poorer members of the community who would have felt pleasure in giving a trifling sum to support the Church, but when compelled to pay a compulsory rate felt aggrieved, and became estranged from the Church which taxed them against their will, and it might be beyond their means. It would readily be seen, therefore, that the Church of England lost by this enforced payment of Church-rates. The question was pressing for immediate solution; and he was sure that all intelligent and sincere friends of the Church of England would join those who wished to make a change in that respect, and remove the great impediment to the happy influence which the Established Church should exercise in this country.

THE DISSENTERS OF HALIFAX AND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE BOROUGH.

The following letter appeared in the *Leeds Mercury* of Monday:—

TO THE EDITORS OF THE LEEDS MERCURY.

Gentlemen.—I was glad to see the walls of Halifax placarded yesterday with a request that the electors of the borough would not promise their votes for the next election until they knew who will be the candidates. Now, as we are pretty sure that Messrs. Stansfeld and Akroyd will offer themselves to us, it is to be presumed from the fact of the above-named placard, that other claims will be put forth. As a minister of the Gospel of Liberty, I am intensely anxious in reference to this matter. I have not, by becoming a Christian and a minister, ceased to become a man and a citizen. I must, therefore, do my humble duty at all such junctures as the present. It is to be desired that the Dissenters of Halifax should act from nobler motives than mere local pride and self-complacency. It would be to our honour most certainly were Halifax to send to Parliament two men, who while they were all that could be wished as politicians, were also our fellow townsmen. All the country is proud of Mr. Stansfeld, and his native town especially; but what of the gallant Col. Akroyd? Why all the town admires his courtesy and kindness; but will the country be the better for his second advent in the House of Commons? Will he prove as true a friend of religious liberty as Sir Charles Wood has proved himself to be? Will he support as unsophisticated and thorough a measure of reform as would the worthy baronet who has faithfully represented this borough for so many years? We can ask these questions without committing ourselves to unqualified approbation of Sir C. Wood's political creed—even without being inconsistent in wishing, at the proper time, a far more liberal member than he. But let us not go back from honest Liberalism to a hybrid policy, begotten of Toryism, Whiggism, and sentimentalism. Sir Charles Wood has voted most satisfactorily for most of those measures which have been brought before Parliament in the interest of religious equality: while during his brief senatorial career Mr. Akroyd voted three times against Sir John Trelawny's bill for the abolition of Church-rates. Sir Charles Wood has been returned again and again by the Liberals of Halifax; but how was it that after two years' trial the Liberals of Huddersfield dismissed Mr. Akroyd in favour of Mr. Leatham? Are these facts of no significance?

and how far are the Nonconformists of this borough disposed to carry the "fellow-townsman" sentiment? Because we have no Church-rates in Halifax, are we therefore to care for none of those places where the unrighteous imposition is yet a source of bitterness and loss? Because a "fellow-townsman" desires to represent us in Parliament, are we therefore to fall down in adoration and gratitude with principle and honesty in our pockets! Gentlemen, this ought not to be, and scores of good and true electors in this borough deeply feel it must not be. I, for one, lift up my voice against it; and feeble though my protest be, it is here recorded against ingratitude and time-serving. Far too few of us have the opportunity of voting for members of Parliament, and therefore the greater the shame if we unrighteously avail ourselves of it.

With sentiments of respect,

I am, Gentlemen, yours most faithfully,
THOMAS MICHAEL.
Hampden-place, Halifax, June 10, 1865.

THE "CONSCIENCE CLAUSE."

A correspondent informs the *Guardian* that the first question proposed to the Conference of Diocesan Secretaries and Inspectors, at the Sanctuary, Westminster, on Wednesday, May 31, was "whether any plan could be devised by which fairly to carry out the principle of the Conscience Clause." All doubt as to the intent of the proposition was removed when the Bishop of Oxford from the chair closed a discussion of more than two hours by avowing its authorship and advocating its object. Previously the Bishop of Lincoln had spoken reservedly in favour of the Conscience Clause, and more decidedly in favour of the independency of Diocesan Boards in the matter; the Bishop of Gloucester bringing forward the practical suggestion of another, to which, however, or to any opinion on the subject, he declined to commit himself. The Bishop of Sodor and Man strenuously urged close adhesion to a strict interpretation of the charter, and a stringent exacting of allegiance from diocesan or affiliated boards. Archdeacon Denison urged no compromise with his usual earnestness, which the Rev. M. W. Mayow and others supported. The Rev. D. Melville, and one or two more, pleaded for a consideration of the Conscience Clause through a kinder regard of the *animus* of its authors, and a juster estimate of its facts and experience. All which and many other arguments in its favour were forcibly advanced by Mr. T. D. Acland, M.P.; when the Bishop of Oxford concluded the debate by gravely and decidedly pressing the acceptance of the Conscience Clause on the Church. He said,—

He was quite certain nothing was to be expected from any possible or imminent political changes, for he knew that there was no party in the State at all worthy the name of a party which was not prepared to sanction the principle. He deprecated a wasting of the Church's strength in the work of education on such a matter of detail, and called attention to the injury, many ways, which must result from the Church having within itself many schools, badged by itself as irregular, and yet ever increasing, and likely, or rather sure, to increase; and therefore, being convinced as he was that the integrity of the Church's teaching need not, and would not, suffer from the contact, the Church, he thought, ought even to afford mere secular education, if the Dissenter would take no more, or such portion of religious teaching besides, however miserable we might think it, as he would accept. He further added that he decidedly thought the experiment could only in result be beneficial to the best interests of the Church.

The proposition, however, was negatived. In the brief remaining time of the meeting sundry points were touched upon; the two of most interest were those wherein the Night-school Minute obtained a unanimous vote of approbation, and the Miss Burdett Coutts Minute as decided an opinion of its probable uselessness.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY TESTS ABOLITION BILL.—The committee formed in support of this measure, in anticipation of the division on the second reading this afternoon, have prepared a list which shows at a glance the votes, pairs, and absences of every member of the Liberal party on the three principal divisions on the bill last session. It will be remembered that on the third reading, a hostile amendment was rejected by a majority of ten; that the third reading was carried by the Speaker's casting vote only; while the motion "That the bill do pass" was lost by two votes. It appears from the committee's statement that the loss of the bill was due, not so much to the strength of the Opposition as to the absences on the Liberal side. On the second reading no fewer than sixty-two Liberals were absent unpaired; on going into committee there were thirty-three unpaired absences, and on the third reading sixty-one. Thirty-three Liberals did not vote for the bill at any stage. There is likely to be a close division this afternoon, if the Conservatives think it worth while to divide at all. But, in either event, it is probable that the second reading will be carried, and supported by nearly all the members of the Treasury Bench.

COMPANIES WORKMEN'S EDUCATION BILL.—This bill has not yet made its appearance in the House of Commons, nor is it known who will have charge of it in the Lower House. Whoever may be the member selected by the Archbishop of York to attempt to do in the Commons the work which his Grace has succeeded in doing in the Lords, he will, we believe, find that he has to encounter a serious opposition.

The Oxford University Convocation have adopted a petition against the bill for abolishing "certain tests in connection with academical degrees."

The Wesleyan Missionary Jubilee Fund amounts to nearly two hundred thousand pounds, the exact figures being 199,680L 7s. 2d., of which 94,767L 5s. 10d. has been actually received.

THE PROPOSED UNIVERSITY COLLEGES FOR WALES AND THE CALVINISTIC METHODISTS.—At the annual assembly of the Calvinistic Methodists of Wales, held last week at Liverpool, the movement for establishing university colleges on unsectarian principles in the Principality was specially considered, and a resolution in its favour unanimously adopted.

RETURN TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—We understand that Mr. Thomas Arnold, second son of the late Rev. Dr. Arnold, who succeeded a few years ago to Rome, and was for some time a professor in Dr. Newman's University at Dublin, has returned to the English Church.—*Daily Bristol Times and Mirror.*

DR. MANNING WAS CONSECRATED ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER with great ceremony at the Roman Catholic cathedral in Moorfields on Thursday. There were several Roman Catholic bishops present. Bishop Ullathorne, of Birmingham, was the consecrator. A large number of persons were present. The ceremony lasted nearly four hours.

MORE ANNUITY-TAX RAIDS.—A number of clerico-police-tax roupings took place yesterday (Thursday) Several of the articles put up for sale passed into new hands, their owners objecting to countenance the obnoxious proceedings in any form. In the afternoon the "lorry" proceeded to Portobello, and a raid was made upon the goods of the Rev. G. T. M. Inglis.—*Caledonian Mercury.*

THE IRISH REGIUM DONUM.—The following members compose the minority who voted on Thursday for Sir F. Crossley's motion for a reduction of the grant to the Presbyterian clergy in Ireland:—A. S. Ayrton, J. I. Briscoe, C. S. Butler, J. Caird, R. W. Crawford, C. Gilpin, H. M. Marsh, J. R. Mill, Sir M. Petre, C. Seeley, Augustus Smith, J. Stansfeld, J. White, and J. Wyld. Tellers, Sir F. Crossley and Mr. Cox.

MR. GLADSTONE'S SISTER.—It is stated that Miss Gladstone, sister to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has subscribed 1,000L towards the Wiseman testimonial; that she will give a similar sum for ten years to come; and that she has further promised to give 1,000L a year towards the augmentation of the income of the new Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster.

SOULS ON SALE AT ASHTON.—The rectory of Ashton-under-Lyne is to be sold by a London auctioneer on Wednesday next. It is described as having a rectory house and garden in the centre of the town, and a present income of 1,112L 13s. 3d. arising principally from tithes, chief rents, and forty-five acres of glebe land, the whole of which is situated within or in immediate proximity to the town, and available for immediate letting at chief rents, by which the income may be increased at a very early period to about 2,000L per annum. The age of the present incumbent is seventy-three. According to the "Clerical Directory," the present patron of the living is the Earl of Stamford and Warrington.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRISONERS.—Since the passing of the Prison Ministers Act of 1863, Roman Catholic priests have been appointed to attend at the following prisons:—At Liverpool borough gaol, with a salary of 300L a year, granted by the magistrates; at Kirkdale gaol, Lancaster, with 100L a year; at Manchester city gaol, with 100L a year, which is to cover the provision of vestments and all altar appurtenances; at Preston house of correction, with 100L a year; at Durham county gaol, with 50L a year; at Northallerton, North Riding, with 40L a year; at Wakefield, with 100L a year; Surrey house of correction, Wandsworth, with 60L a year; Hants county prison, Winchester, with 40L a year. At Worcester county prison, at Warwick, at Ripon, at Maidstone, at Reading, and at the county prisons of Sussex, a Roman Catholic priest is permitted to visit such Roman Catholic prisoners as do not refuse his ministrations, but the priest receives no salary from the rates. The same may be the case at other gaols, but in the great majority of English prisons no actual appointment has been made under the act.

MISSIONARY ADDRESS BY AN AUSTRALIAN "BLACKFELLOW."—The following is perhaps the first address to a Christian congregation ever attempted by a native Australian. It was delivered at a Congregational *soirée* at Horsham (Victoria colony) on the evening of the 15th January last. The speaker was the once roving Charley Charley, now evangelist to his own people, whom he is accustomed to address in his own language, with excellent effect. Evidently he had something to say; but the lights, the ornamented church, and the many eager eyes, disconcerted him. The following are his words:—

Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen,—All people have known me. I was heathen. If I was still heathen I would not stand here in the name of the Lord Jesus. I not know what to say. Not long ago since, I was lying in camp—all bad—no white people came—no English. But soon English come. Missionary come, so I am here now, and hope to keep in this way. Pray to God for poor blacks. My poor father and mother know nothing; nobody tell them. Now there is old people. But I, first time I come here—big congregation—very glad to see all happy—not know how to speak. Many more blackfellows rolling about the bush. I no turn back to them—keep to Lord and Saviour—want to. First time, recollect, I speak here—not expect more. I found the way through the missionary. God good to me.

God remember us, and send dear missionaries to us—few go yet—more by-and-by—won't come out—(meaning words)—little by little—(holding his hands to his lips, then pointing to his heart, and raising his hand to his mouth)—not come well up from my heart.

THE LORD MAYOR PROTESTING.—A correspondent of the *Morning Advertiser* tells of a scene at the parish church of St. Michael, Paternoster Royal, College-hill, a few Sundays ago, at which the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and other Corporation authorities were present.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. M. Collins, and the prayers were read by the Rev. T. Darling, the rector of the parish. The communion table was luxuriously decorated with flowers and massive candlesticks, with candles in them. During some of the prayers the Rev. T. Darling did not face the congregation for whose spiritual benefit he was reading, but he looked aside towards the north or the south, and read out of a small book, which he held somewhat secretly or obscurely. When he went to the communion-table, he sat not in the usual manner, but in a chair against the rails, and again not with his face towards the people. This was neither Popery or Protestantism; it seems that a new and third religious sect is coming up, who may be called North-easters.

The writer states that the Lord Mayor would not go into the vestry, but at once walked out of the church (giving his subscription), and was heard to express his strong and manly disapprobation of the conduct of the clergyman.

FACTS FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* states that in all the provinces of India except Bengal and Bombay, missionaries are welcomed by the British civilians, as the most efficient agency for civilising the hill tribes, and cheaply spreading education among the Hindoos.

In British Burmah, for instance, the American Baptist missionaries have civilised at least 60,000 Karen in the last ten years; and Colonel Phayre, the Chief Commissioner, has often said of one missionary there and his wife that he considers them of more value to the Administration than half-a-dozen magistrates. In the large jungly country of Chota Nagpore, the Lutheran missionaries from Berlin have Christianised hundreds of villages, and the mere work of baptizing the converts is so great that they have applied for more colleagues. The people there are the Coles, who supply the tea districts of India and the sugar fields of the colonies with Coolie labour. In their case there is no *effete* civilisation like that of the Hindoos to be first destroyed, so that since 1850 four German pastors have baptised 7,000 people. As I write, I hear that within the past few weeks 600 have been admitted to the church. The change is so thorough as to attract the attention and support of the secular authorities. All the Coles who are to be baptised or married must go to Ranchee, the county town: and once a year, at least, all the adults, from distances of 100 miles in many cases, go up there to worship, and to present in the church, which the rebels tried in vain to destroy in 1857, the first-fruits of the harvest. In the cold season the missionaries itinerate among their flocks, but they have an indigenous system of Christianising which tests the reality of the new creed. In every family there is worship morning and evening; in every village there are elders who conduct Divine service on Sunday, and act as magistrates in deciding disputes during the week. Many of the villages have schools, one half the expense of which is contributed by the State. Some villages are altogether Christian, but in most cases Christian families live in heathen villages, and it is by their means that there are so many baptisms. None are baptised till after a year's instruction and probation. Poor as they are, being generally peasants oppressed by their Bengali landlords, they have promised to subscribe 6s. a-year each to the schools in which boys are being trained as teachers and catechists. So remarkable has this work become, that Mr. Temple, the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, has just written the missionaries begging them to do the same for similar tribes farther south in and around Belaspore. My information is derived from a Calcutta merchant who lately returned from a personal visit to Chota Nagpore.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.—This association celebrated its fortieth anniversary on Wednesday and Thursday. The annual sermon was preached on Wednesday morning, at the chapel in Essex-street, Strand, by the Rev. Dr. G. Vance Smith, and in the afternoon the annual meeting took place, under the presidency of Mr. W. P. Price, late M.P. for Gloucester. Amongst those present were Sir J. Bowring, Mr. J. Yates, F.R.S., Mr. J. French, Mayor of Bath; Mr. Tribe, Mayor of Rochester; Mr. W. Wansey, Mr. H. Bicknell, Mr. A. Lawrence; the Revs. J. J. Taylor, Principal of University Hall, London, T. L. Marshall, and E. Talbot; and there were also in attendance deputations from several towns in the country. The report, read by the secretary, the Rev. R. B. Aspland, gave a statement of the progress of Unitarianism in different parts of the world, and an account of the proceedings of the different missions in connection with the association. Amongst the resolutions adopted was the following, proposed by Sir John Bowring, and seconded by the Rev. S. Bache:

That in the present state of political parties in this land in the prospect of a general election, it is expedient that the attention of the committee during the ensuing year be directed to the important subject of religious liberty; and that in the future legislation of the country, timely and strenuous resistance may be given to all measures, whether originating from political or ecclesiastical parties, which will, in the opinion of the committee, tend to interfere with the religious liberty of Unitarians, or to retard the accomplishment of that perfect religious equality towards which the government of this country has during the last thirty years been tending.

The Rev. J. Martineau moved an address to the American Unitarian Association, expressing sorrow for the death of the late President, and detestation of the crime of the assassin. The motion was seconded by the Rev. B. Herford, and carried. The annual dinner of the association took place at the Crystal Palace on

Thursday, and was attended by from two to three hundred members and friends of the association, including a number of ladies. The chair was taken by Mr. W. P. Price, of Gloucester, and among those present were Sir John Bowring, Mr. Beale, M.P., the mayor of Bath, Mr. S. Courtsaud, Mr. H. O. Bicknell, Mr. David Martineau, Alderman J. C. Lawrence, the Revs. J. Martineau, S. Bache, Dr. Sadler, H. Leson, T. L. Marshall, &c.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF PAUPERS.—Mr. Villiers's bill for continuing the Poor-law Board until July, 1865, and to the end of the then next session, contains several provisions for the better working of the law, and devotes eight sections to the subject of religious instruction. A creed register is to be kept in every workhouse and pauper school. Children under fourteen are to be registered as of the religious creed of the father if it can be ascertained, and if not, then of the mother; and the creed of an illegitimate child is to be deemed that of its mother, if that can be ascertained. Failing other evidence as to creed, a certificate of baptism is to be deemed sufficient. The Poor-law Board may inquire into and decide any question as to the correctness of an entry in the creed register. Every minister officiating in any church or chapel of every denomination in the union or parish is to be allowed to inspect the register, except that if there is a chaplain appointed, no other minister of the Church of England is to have the right of inspection. Every minister may, subject to the regulations of the Poor-law Board, visit and instruct inmates of the workhouse or school registered as belonging to his religious faith. Every inmate for whom a religious service according to his creed is not provided in the workhouse on Sunday, and on any other day required by his religion to be kept sacred, is to be permitted, subject to the regulations of the Poor-law Board, to attend once on such days some place of worship of his own denomination within a convenient distance. No child regularly visited by a minister of its own religious creed is to be instructed in any other, or required or permitted to attend any other religious service than that entered in the register, unless the child be above twelve, and desires to receive instruction in some other creed, and is considered by the Poor-law Board competent to exercise a judgment. The Poor-law Board may authorise or prohibit the use of any religious book in the workhouse.

Religious Intelligence.

THE BIBLE-WOMEN.—In Mrs. Ranyard's *Missing Link Magazine* we read:—"While we gladly present the claims of other institutions to our benevolent readers, we must not neglect the statement of our own affairs. Our total receipts for the seven months of our present year have been £847.; our expenditure, alas! we have not been able to reduce below £1,113. Our monthly receipts for the corresponding months of 1864 were £2,657., and expenses £5,397. More economical arrangements have been made in various quarters, concerning rent of mission-rooms and cost of clothing clubs, which has enabled us to venture on sixteen new districts, notwithstanding an income lessened by 400L. Eight districts on our last year's list have for the present ceased working."

CLAPHAM.—The public recognition of the Rev. J. Guinness Rogers, B.A., late of Ashton-under-Lyne, as minister of the church and congregation worshipping in Grafton-square Chapel, took place on Thursday, the 8th inst. The attendance was large, and included most of the neighbouring ministers. The service, which was deeply interesting, was conducted by the Revs. Henry Allon, Robert Ashton, Samuel B. Bergne, Robert Halley, D.D., Samuel Martin, Arthur Tidman, D.D., and Edward White. The Revs. T. Binney, J. Baldwin Brown, B.A., A. Raleigh, D.D., and R. Vaughan, whom it was at one time hoped would have been able to attend, were unavoidably absent.

GRAVESEND.—The Rev. E. S. Price, B.A., has been led by providential circumstances to resign his charge at Windmill-street Chapel, on the approaching quarter-day—a separation, which after a connection of twenty years, will be painfully felt. By his kindness in affording facilities for appointing a successor, the church has been enabled to invite the Rev. William Emery, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts, to become its pastor. The call was cordial and unanimous, and has been accepted by Mr. Emery, who will commence his ministrations in his new sphere on the 25th inst., with encouraging prospects.

MORLEY, YORKSHIRE.—The "Old Chapel," Morley, which is the oldest in the county belonging to the Congregationalists, and which at one time was the property of the Establishment, has recently undergone very considerable repairs, and it has been reopened for Divine worship. On Tuesday week sermons were preached by Dr. J. R. Campbell, of Bradford, and the Rev. E. Mellor, M.A., of Liverpool, and on Sunday the opening services were continued, the Rev. W. Hudswell, of Leeds, preaching in the morning, and the Rev. H. Sanders, of Wakefield, in the afternoon and evening.

ATHERSTONE.—The ordination of the Rev. F. J. Hoyte as pastor of the North-street Independent Chapel, Atherstone, took place on Monday afternoon, June 5th. Suitable portions of Scripture were read, and prayer was offered by the Rev. J. Redman, of Nuneaton. The introductory discourse was delivered by the Rev. T. G. Horton, of Wolverhampton. The usual questions were asked by the Rev. W. Bealby, of Lichfield, to which appropriate replies were given

by the Rev. F. J. Hoyte. The ordination prayer, with imposition of hands, was offered by the Rev. J. Gange, of Polesworth. The charge to the young pastor was given by the Rev. Professor Falding, D.D., of Rotherham College. In the evening a most excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. A. Picton, M.A., of Leicestershire. The Rev. W. Paton, of Coleshill-street Chapel, Atherstone, read the Scripture and prayed. The newly-ordained minister closed the interesting services with prayer and the benediction. The Revs. T. Burgess, J. B. James, T. Vine, Dr. W. Purdon, T. Morgan, C. Haddon, &c., took part in the proceedings of the day.

CAERMARTHEN.—ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—The third anniversary of this church was celebrated on Sunday, the 4th inst. Sermons were preached in the morning and evening, by the Rev. Professor Newth, M.A., F.R.A.S., of New College, to the great gratification of all present, and in the afternoon by the Rev. T. Lewis, Baptist minister. The contributions on this occasion (including a grant of 25L. from the "Coward" fund) amounted to 105L., thus making a total of 159L. contributed for the diminution of the debt on the place since the last anniversary. The entire cost of the church was 2,360L., and it is gratifying to state that since the opening in May, 1862, the sum of 468L. has been paid towards the building, the debt of 1,240L. on opening being now reduced to 772L. On Tuesday, the 6th inst., Professor Newth delivered a very interesting lecture in the assembly rooms of the Literary Institute, the subject being "Scenes in the Life of St. Augustine," J. Adams, Esq., Mayor, in the chair.

SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM.—On Tuesday, June 6th, recognition services were held in connection with the settlement of the Rev. Thomas W. Mays, M.A., as pastor of the Congregational church in this place. In the afternoon, the Rev. J. Hammond, of Handsworth, commenced the service with prayer and the reading of the Scriptures. Mr. Mays read a brief personal statement; the Rev. R. W. McAll, of Leicester, offered the recognition prayer; the Rev. Thomas Mays, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, addressed his son; and the Rev. Thomas Arnold, of Northampton, preached to the people. Tea was provided in the old Independent chapel, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. In the evening a very interesting public meeting was held, when the Revs. R. W. McAll, T. Arnold, T. Mays, T. G. Horton, of Wolverhampton; J. G. Jukes, of West Bromwich; J. Hammond, and R. Ann, of Handsworth, delivered addresses. Several of the neighbouring ministers were unable to be present in consequence of previous engagements.

LOUGHBOROUGH-PARK CHAPEL, BRIXTON.—The committee of management of this chapel met on Monday evening last to receive the treasurer's report and to consider what steps should be taken to liquidate the remaining portion of the debt incurred in the purchase of the ground and the erection of the chapel and school premises. The pastor of the Loughboro'-park congregation, the Rev. A. D. Herschell, presided. The property, which is freehold, was obtained at the cost of about 3,400L., the greater portion of which has been discharged by personal friends of Mr. Herschell. About 400L. remains to be paid off. Towards this there is a balance in hand of 141L., and about 136L. more is promised provided the whole amount required is at once raised. It is hoped that the small sum—123L.—still needed will be speedily subscribed. The chapel is situated close to the new Loughboro'-road station on the London, Chatham, and Dover line, in the midst of a rapidly-increasing neighbourhood, and those who are best acquainted with the self-denying and devoted labours of the pastor are very desirous that this limited income should no longer be diminished by charges arising out of the present debt. The appeal now made will, it is hoped, be liberally responded to by members of the Congregational body generally.

STOKE-UNDER-HAM, SOMERSETSHIRE.—This ancient, large, and populous village is not far from the Merton station on the Yeovil branch of the Bristol and Exeter Railway. It is beautifully situated at the foot of a noble hill, known for many miles round as the source from which is derived the celebrated Ham-hill stone so extensively used for building purposes. The village has a population of 1,400 persons, and has become the centre of an important branch of manufacture—gloves. It was resolved to erect a new chapel here. On being applied to, Samuel Morley, Esq., of London, for whose house a very large portion of the goods made at Stoke are manufactured, with characteristic benevolence, offered, if a good chapel were erected, capable of meeting the wants of the village, to contribute 300L. towards the cost. Thus encouraged, various friends in the neighbourhood have given liberal assistance: between 500L. and 600L. have been already added to Mr. Morley's donation. A most eligible site has been granted, at a nominal ground-rent, by the Council of the Duchy of Cornwall, to which the parish chiefly belongs. Plans have been prepared by Mr. Bennett, architect, of Weymouth, for a neat and commodious Gothic chapel, capable of seating on the ground floor about 350 persons, and, with galleries, about 500; and Sunday-school-rooms, with commodious classrooms, under. On Thursday the 1st instant, a large tea-meeting was held to publicly inaugurate the movement. About 500 persons were present. H. O. Wills, Esq., of Bristol, presided. The Rev. S. Hebditch briefly narrated the circumstances out of which the meeting arose, and urged by various considerations the importance of the enterprise. He was followed by Mr. R. Southcumb, a gentleman residing in the village, and a large employer of labour in the trade of the place, to whose Christian kindness, activity, and benevo-

lence the movement largely owes its origin; who made a statement of its financial position, and exhibited the plans prepared for the building. A committee was appointed to carry out the work, and the meeting further addressed in a series of warm, earnest speeches, by the Revs. R. A. Ashton, B.A., of Weymouth; R. Kerr, Baptist minister, of Montacute; W. Densham, of South Petherton; S. Pearce, Baptist minister, of Crewkerne; George Taylor, of Lawbrook; Henry Kiddle, late of Odcombe; and Messrs. Slade (Wesleyan), and W. Hebditch, of Stoke; J. P. Daniel and Simeon Hebditch, of South Petherton; and Jos. Foster, of Bristol. The new chapel will cost about 1,600*l.*

NEW INDEPENDENT CHAPEL AT GREAISBORO'.—On Wednesday afternoon the foundation-stone of a new Independent chapel was laid at Greasboro' by the Rev. Dr. Fallding, Principal of Rotherham College. The charming weather, the festive season of the year, and the wide spread interest manifested in the undertaking, caused the gathering to witness the ceremony to be unusually large—persons being present from Sheffield, Rotherham, and the surrounding neighbourhood. The old chapel, upon the site of which the new one will be erected, was built in 1812. It will be erected from plans gratuitously furnished by Mr. Shaw, architect, of Rotherham. The style of architecture will be classic. Accommodation will be provided for about 250, and on the basement will be a commodious schoolroom. The cost will not exceed 500*l.*, towards which 300*l.* has been subscribed. The builders are Messrs. Smith and Hardy. In the course of his address Dr. Fallding said he hoped the time would come when the whole district would be united in the unity of the Spirit and the unity of faith. Until that time came they must abide by their conscientious convictions, not in bitterness and in scrimony, but in the spirit of Christian charity and liberality. The Rev. H. Quick, of Sheffield, followed in an appropriate address. At the close of the ceremony tea was partaken of in the Wesleyan schoolroom, after which a meeting was held, in which the ministers already named, the Rev. J. Guttridge, the Rev. J. Boyd, of West Melton, and others, took part.

BLOCKLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.—The annual meeting of the Baptist church and congregation was held on Thursday last. The Rev. C. J. Middle-ditch, late secretary of the Baptist Irish Society, having recently entered on the pastoral office, the evening was devoted to a statement of the ecclesiastical polity of the New Testament. The pastor having taken the chair, suitable portions of Scripture were read, and prayer was offered by the Rev. R. A. Shadick, of Campden. A resolution acknowledging the gracious providence of God in the settlement of the pastor was moved and seconded by Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Belcher, with very appropriate remarks on the occasion of the meeting. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. G. M'Michael, B.A., of Bourton-on-the-Water, on the constitution of the Church of Christ; by the Rev. A. W. Heritage, of Naunton, on the relation of pastor and people; and by the Rev. W. R. Irvine, of Ascott, on the Church of Christ the Divinely-appointed agency for the conversion of men. The addresses were marked by clearness and force in the exposition of church principles as held by Nonconformists, and by great kindness in the hearty welcome given to Mr. Middle-ditch on his association with neighbouring brethren. Prayer for the Divine blessing on behalf of pastor and people was offered by the Rev. S. Hodges, of Stow-on-the-Wold. The interesting meeting was closed with appropriate thanksgiving by Mr. R. Comeley, deacon of the Baptist church at Naunton.

BRAMPTON, HUNTS.—On Wednesday, May 24, the foundation-stone of a new chapel was laid by Charles Tebbutt, Esq., of Bluntisham, in the presence of a large assembly of friends connected with the Christian churches of this neighbourhood. In the summer of 1863, the Gospel was preached on the village green by the Rev. W. Pole, of Buckden, Rev. J. H. Millard, B.A., of Huntingdon, and others. A considerable congregation was by this means gathered together, and it was not thought right to allow it to be dispersed on the approach of winter, and a temporary accommodation was obtained at first in an outhouse, then in a malting, and finally in a moveable wooden chapel, so that preaching has been regularly continued until the day of the laying of the foundation-stone of this new chapel. The congregation usually consisted of about 200 persons, and many souls have been added to the church. In July, 1864, a Sunday-school was commenced, which now has upwards of seventy scholars and fourteen teachers. The whole work has been conducted with the assistance and under the direction of the Rev. J. H. Millard. The congregation meeting in the new chapel will be united with the church assembling at Union Chapel, Huntingdon. The village contains 1,270 inhabitants, and the new building will be constructed to accommodate 350 persons. The architect is Mr. R. Hutchison, and the builders, Messrs. G. Maile and G. Richardson, of Huntingdon. The Rev. Mr. Aveling, of London, preached in the afternoon. After a public tea a public meeting was held, when numerous addresses were given. Some hundreds sat down to tea, and the meeting was highly successful. The cost of the chapel and site is 730*l.*; the amount subscribed is 427*l.* 11s. 3*d.*; leaving 300*l.* to be collected.

BEDFORDSHIRE UNION.—The sixty-eighth anniversary of this Christian association was held on Wednesday week, when two sermons were preached on the occasion, that in the morning, at Buoyan Meeting, by the Rev. W. Brook, of London; and that in the evening by the Rev. G. L. Herman, of Chatham, at

Howard Chapel. In the afternoon a public meeting was held in the Castle Rooms, the Rev. W. Allott, the secretary, in the chair. The meeting being opened by singing and prayer, the chairman read the report, containing an account of the receipts and expenditure, which leaves a balance in hand of 227*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, out of the sum of 717*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* received. A grant of 15*l.* had been made to Hockliffe, on certain conditions, which had not been complied with, or the balance would have been less by that amount. The object of the society, as stated in the rules, is to sustain and extend the preaching of the Gospel in the county, and to promote Christian union by social meetings of a religious character. The association includes the Independent and Baptist denominations. Some new laws and bye-laws were recommended by the committee for adoption at the next annual meeting, which were read by the Rev. J. Brown. An evening public meeting will then be held, and the proceedings conducted on a more enlarged system, and suitable addresses delivered, whereby extended efforts may be produced. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. — Allott, jun., from Cheshire; Rev. J. Bull, Newport Pagnell; Rev. T. Griffith, Biggleswade; Rev. J. Brown, Rev. J. Dean, Harrow; and the Rev. T. Hands, Luton, who were all desirous of extension, and an increase of unity of feeling and action. At the conclusion a resolution of thanks to Divine Providence, and of congratulation to the Christian churches of America, on the termination of the horrible war and the freedom of four millions of human beings from the degradation and injustice of slavery, was carried unanimously.

BOWDON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—The Congregational church assembling at Bowdon, near Manchester, have for some time past occupied three out-stations at Partington, Hey Head, and Mobberley, all of which are in a prosperous condition. These stations have been supplied, partly by the agents of the North Cheshire rural mission, and partly by members of the mother church at Bowdon, the pastor of which has also occasionally preached and presided at the communion service. On Sunday last, about 120 friends from these stations accepted a cordial invitation from the members of the church at Bowdon to join in a united communion service. The morning congregation was very large. The pastor of the church, the Rev. Henry Griffiths, preached an excellent sermon from Acts xx. 16—“He hastened, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.” The sermon was in every respect appropriate to the occasion. At the close of the morning service, the visitors were conducted to the houses of many of the congregation, where they were expected guests, and received an hospitable welcome. The united communion service took place in the chapel at three o'clock. The attendance of communicants was very large, and there were also many spectators. The service was conducted by the Rev. Henry Griffiths, and prayer was offered by Mr. Whitley, agent at Partington, and by Mr. Fielden, late of Hey Head. Tea was afterwards provided at the British School for the visitors, the object of this being to afford an opportunity for those from the three different districts to become acquainted with each other. In the evening, in addition to the ordinary service at the chapel, another service was held at the British School, after which the last of the visitors took their departure, bearing pleasant remembrances of their day in Bowdon.

DUBLIN—BOLTON-STREET.—The second anniversary sermons in connection with this church were preached on Lord's-day, the 28th ult., by the Rev. W. Walters, of Newcastle-on-Tyne; services were held at twelve, three, and seven o'clock, and on each occasion the chapel was well filled by a most attentive congregation. On the following Monday evening, the annual social meeting was held, when the pastor, Mr. Charles Morgan, gave an account of the origin and progress of the cause, and expressed, on behalf of the church, their thankfulness to God for the peace, happiness, and prosperity which had been given to them, and their confident trust that He would bless them still more in the future. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. Bigwood, of London, the Rev. J. H. Hiron, the Rev. W. Walters, and the Rev. S. Malins, of Abbey-street; all the addresses were congratulatory and encouraging in their character, and contained much useful information and advice. Altogether the meeting was a most happy one, and will not soon be forgotten. On Tuesday evening the Rev. W. Walters delivered a very interesting and instructive lecture on British philanthropy, in the Baptist Chapel, Lower Abbey-street. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. G. Malins. At the conclusion of the lecture, which was listened to with marked attention, and frequently applauded, Mr. Morgan expressed the hearty thanks of himself and the Bolton-street church to the chairman and his church for the use of their chapel, and to the lecturer for his kindness in coming from Newcastle to conduct their second anniversary services as he had for their first, and for the real and practical interest which he has taken in the welfare and prosperity of this church. On Wednesday evening Mr. Walters concluded these special anniversary services by preaching in the Rathmines Baptist Chapel, and return to England on the Thursday morning, leaving behind him the grateful remembrance of his eloquent, practical, and encouraging words.

The Lord Chancellor is, we hear, engaged in drawing up a bill to deal with an offence which has lately become alarmingly prevalent in the political world. It is to be entitled, “An Act for the better Prevention of Embethelment.”—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Correspondence.

RELATION OF DISSENTERS TO THE POLITICO-RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR.—Our lot is cast in eventful times. Ecclesiastical questions are taking precedence of all others, and are concentrating upon themselves the interest and attention of all parties in the State. There is a spirit abroad mighty for good or for evil; a spirit of restless inquiry, of keen and searching investigation, which will be mocked by no palliatives and put aside by no excuses. We must therefore seek to control and direct to its legitimate objects this awakened spirit, which, if we are mad enough to attempt to stem or to impede, will sweep us headlong with its irresistible current. The Church is dividing itself into two vast and opposing forces. With the accumulated power and experience of past centuries, they are both preparing for the final struggle, a struggle which for its numbers, its grandeur, and its interests, may be denominated “the battle of the Great God”!

It will be a struggle for ascendancy between religious freedom and spiritual despotism; between a progressive and enlightened development and an obsolete and antiquated intolerance; between a growing and critical public opinion, impatient of restraints and demanding a free inquiry into “prescriptive rights” and “traditional claims,” and a baptized paganism, substituting its dry mummies of creeds, its priestly arrogance and surveillance, its formulæs and rituals—the abrogated ceremonial of Judaism—for “the truth as it is in Jesus,” the pure spirit and genius of Christianity.

Of the ultimate issue we have no fear—though often endangered, the truth will prevail; for

Freedmen's battle once begun,
Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft is ever won!

But with such prospects before us, it becomes us, as Nonconformists, descendants from an heroic ancestry, and entitled to the post of danger and of honour in such a conflict, to perfect our entire organisation, and render it increasingly better adapted to compass all the objects of a conservative evangelism within, and an aggressive evangelistic warfare without, that when the war cry shall go through the land, “To your tents, O Israel!” we may be ready to gather to “the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.”

In order to this we must actively sympathise with and further the onward movements of the day, and be found everywhere in the van of progress. Every church must be a centre of activity and enlightenment, a seedplot of civil and religious liberty, an outpost above which shall float the unfurled banner of the Cross. Increasing inquiry must be met by increased intelligence, and the coruscations of false philosophy by the steady effulgence of the true, and armed in an intelligent conviction of their truthfulness, we must be prepared to meet every assault, and to bear onward our principles unscathed to the goal of final triumph.

If our churches be animated by this spirit, they will not fritter away their strength in feeble assaults against the frivolities and fripperies of ritualism, but lay the axe to the root of the tree; they will not seek to filter the poisoned streams of Anglicanism, but to bring in the pure water of the river of life, and in the quest for it they will exercise faith, diligence, and self-denial, patience, perseverance, and prayer. They will rise to the height of this grand argument, and, accepting with humble confidence the responsibility which the vantage-ground they occupy in this controversy entails, will purge themselves from the petty weaknesses and jealousies which beset them, not careful to raise their own shibboleths, but rallying in compact phalanx around the standard of “Freedom in Church and State”; and the world will reap the fruits of lofty purposes and magnificent designs, nobly conceived and promptly executed, thus gloriously realising, in the domain of the spiritual, the pith and substance of that celebrated maxim of ancient chivalry, that—

They who are great in deeds of battle
Shall be great in all beside.

I have said that there is no fear as to the result, but our failure to appreciate the true character and magnitude of the struggle, and its bearings upon the development of the Kingdom of Christ, may influence its intensity and duration. In the coming trial our Nonconformity will not only have to pass through the fires of persecution, and to withstand calumny and vituperation, but it will be subjected to the enervating and seductive allurements of patronage and of flattery; and these are, perhaps, the influences to which it is least accustomed and most susceptible, and therefore its most insidious and dangerous besetting.

The tendency of legislation, as represented by those who sit in high places, manifestly is to enlarge rather than to curtail the area of endowment, to enslave all denominations rather than enfranchise any. Are our churches strong enough, wise enough, manful enough, to withstand the temptation, to discern the cloven foot of despotism beneath the broad phylactery of endowment? or will “they that stood when the storm was sore, fall off before the sun”? Let them “stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free,” and refuse to be entangled in any yoke of bondage. The coming election will try every man's work, of what sort it is. Will our principles stand the test? Will our Nonconformist electors wipe off the reproach, not wholly undeserved, of keeping their principles in abeyance, or subordinating them to a time-serving expediency, until, like sensitive plants, they shrivel at the touch of opposition, and shrink and cower under a supercilious laugh or sneer? Will they be true to themselves and to the demands of the Church and of the world at this juncture, and make their mark in the next Parliament?

Let Manchester give the answer!

Nobly distinguished by her sacrifices on behalf of Free Trade, of Education, and of a Free Press, let her add this crowning triumph to the record—that she who gave the people bread threw down the barriers of intolerance, and gave them free access to the Water of Life.

Yours,

A MANCHESTER ELECTOR

June 10, 1865.

THE BALLOT SOCIETY AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR.—The Committee of the Ballot Society have received the following letter from Mr. W. Hargreaves, a staunch friend to freedom of election, and they would feel obliged by its insertion in your paper.

Yours truly,

J. F. BONTEMS, Hon. Sec.
Ballot Society's Offices, 61, Cheapside, London.

Send-Holme, Ripley, Surrey.

17th May, 1865.

DEAR SIR.—In sending a subscription to the funds of the Ballot Society, I venture to suggest that, in the prospect of a General Election, it would be well to raise a special fund for this year, if a sufficient number of subscribers can be found who are willing to put their names down for the sum of 20*l.* each. It is the more important that a special effort should be made on this occasion, since the Ballot is finding new opponents in the philosophical radicals, so-called, who follow Mr. J. S. Mill in his opposition to this mode of voting, and who are likely to be made much of by all enemies to the "free vote." This title "free vote" by-the-by, might be attached with advantage to the society, the "Ballot," being considered un-English at the hustings, although quite English at the clubs and elsewhere. The right to give a free vote, that is, free from intimidation and every other unfair influence, is surely a right second to none in a free country. I presume Mr. Mill and his followers would call for the police to protect the voters at the hustings from the bludgeons of opponents—why then deny the protection of the Ballot against that which is as great an evil, practically, as physical force, I mean secret intimidation? Surely the voter has as just a claim to the last as to the first. The argument about demoralisation is scarcely worth consideration in the face of the wholesale demoralisation of the present system. And let it be remembered that the man who yields repeatedly to intimidation is on the way rapidly to the acceptance of a bribe, his political faith being quite undermined. Demoralise! The Ballot ought to have the support of every friend of morality. It would put an end, at once, to those brutal scenes which take place before hundreds of hustings, and which disgrace us nationally, before the whole civilised world. Bad men would cease to intimidate, finding it useless, and any evil effect that might be supposed to arise from secrecy would come to an end. The free vote would be a secured and acknowledged right. Depend upon it the student politicians are unwittingly playing the game of the rich and the unscrupulous in this matter. Let them come forth and try the ordeal of a contested election, and I shall be content to abide the issue. For these and other reasons, and of these not the least, that we shall have a Prime Minister appealing to the country on the Liberal side, *the sworn foe of the free vote*, as indeed of every other electoral reform, I would propose the raising a special fund for the purposes of the coming election, and I desire that my present subscription (20*l.*) may be devoted to that object.

I am, truly yours,
WM. HARGREAVES.

J. F. Bontems, Esq.

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—On the eve of returning to Holland I wish to address to you a few lines which, by means of your paper, may reach number of British Christians, whose sympathy for a good and noble cause I highly desire to enlist. I came to England a few weeks ago at the request of the Committee of the British Organisation of the Evangelical Alliance, in order to give some information about the religious condition of Holland, more especially with reference to the General Conference, which, God willing, will be held next year in Amsterdam or the Hague.

Wherever I have been, I have met with that kind hospitality and Christian affection which characterise and honour your nation, and which I shall never forget. Everywhere I found that the religious state of Holland was almost unknown to most of the English people; but, on the other hand, I am happy to state that I experienced amongst all those whom I had the pleasure of meeting, a very lively interest in that subject.

But although the kind assistance of my English friends introduced me to many influential Christian men, and through their instrumentality I found the opportunity of addressing public or drawing-room meetings in London, Bath, Nottingham, Derby, Liverpool, and elsewhere, the short time of my stay in your country did necessarily prevent me from coming in contact with as many British Christians as I could have desired, whilst the difficulty I experienced in speaking your language made me feel how deficient an advocate I was of the cause I had to plead.

It is for these reasons that I wish to take the opportunity afforded by your kindness in opening your columns for this letter. I wish to repeat, once more, by means of the press, more publicly than I could do at one of the said meetings, that many Christians in Holland will do whatever is in their power to make the General Conference of 1866, with God's help, as interesting and fruitful as possible, and that we are specially anxious to see as many British brethren of all denominations as will be able to come. It is an indubitable fact that there exist historical and religious ties between the British and the Dutch peoples; that they are nations of one stamp and spirit; and that by customs and principles they are nearer one another than is generally known; and from the various expressions of sympathy which the Dutch Conference Committee has received at home, and from several of the most eminent men on the continent, we may expect to have next year's conference not less blessed than those which were consecutively held in London, Paris, Berlin, and Geneva, and which left more than a happy remembrance.

Now we should sincerely regret if, by misapprehensions or misunderstandings of one kind or the other, the great idea of the Evangelical Alliance, once founded in England, should lose in your country something of the sympathy and support it deserves. This idea of the real unity which virtually exists in the Church of Christ in all nations, of the communion of saints, of the necessity of all members of Christ's Church throughout the world

co-operating in the unity of faith—this idea is not only rooted in the very centre of Christianity, in the heart of Gospel truth, but it is decidedly one of the great wants of the present day, one of the most valuable means to encounter and overcome the terrible assaults of unbelief and superstition. In our days of free trade and railway connections, when all nations are brought nearer together in close and perpetual intercourse, Christians ought not to isolate themselves. The children of God ought to have in this respect the wisdom of the children of the world, and employ all providential means of interchange of thought and action in the higher interests of the kingdom of God.

I am not able to judge why the idea of a Christian Alliance, so congenial to the practical sense of your people, has not more widely spread, or has even lost some of its former adherents. But it should be understood that, though the organisation of the Evangelical Alliance is the means of convening the General Conference, they are in no way confined to the members of the Alliance, and that all Evangelical Christians are invited to attend who have at heart the true interests of the Church of Christ. Far be it from us to assail or undermine any existing Church in its special character. On the contrary, we believe that each of them, as well as each nation and individual, has its own vocation in the kingdom of Christ. We do not wish them, Churchmen or Dissenters, to deny their particular creed or conviction. We want to see them all, being such as they are, meeting together in the spirit and love of Christ to the glory of our Saviour and God—"co-operation without co-ordination," union without uniformity, harmony even by the difference of character, universal enrichment by mutual interchange—this is what we seek to obtain by our efforts, what we pray for from the Lord as a blessing to His Church, what we expect in some measure at least from the intended Conference of 1866.

Believe me, Sir, with Christian affection,

Yours,
M. COHEN STUART, from Rotterdam.
London, May 23, 1865.

REFUSAL OF BURIAL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—The following correspondence is placed before the public with a view of leading to such an alteration of the law as shall relieve the clergy of the Established Church from an invidious and trying position, and Nonconformists and others from a painful agitation of their feelings when they pay the last rites of respect and affection to kindred and friends.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

EDWARD TALBOT.

TO HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

Tenterden, May 18th, 1865.

May it please your Grace,—The writer of this note is the Presbyterian (Unitarian) minister of the congregation at Tenterden, which situation I have held for 38 years.

During the long course of time that I have been an inhabitant of this parish it has never been my painful lot till this day to witness the interment of any fellow parishioner without the rites of Christian burial.

The individual who was this day committed to the earth without any religious service in the church burial-ground, was Elizabeth Dudley, aged 16 years and six months. She was, I believe, a member of a Baptist congregation of this town, and was unbaptized. In consequence of this our Vicar, Mr. Merewether, refused to read over her the burial service. I am not given to understand that there was anything harsh in the mode of the Vicar's refusal. The course, however, which he has thought fit to adopt is contrary to what has been the custom of the parish for the last forty years—one which will produce much just irritation on the part of Nonconformists, and I am persuaded will be regarded with deep regret by many true and earnest members of the Church of England.

I cannot describe to your Grace the mingled feelings of sorrow and indignation with which I witnessed the painful scene of this day. Had all clergymen been in the habit of adopting the same course, it is hardly necessary to say that a remedy would ere this have been found for such an outrage on the feelings at so trying a time.

It is a just subject of complaint that Dissenters are liable to have their feelings thus wounded when clergymen take Mr. Merewether's view of the obligations of the Rubric.

I feel assured, so far as advice may alleviate this evil, that your Grace (till the state of the law is remedied) will afford such relief as may be in your power.

But your Grace, from your great influence and high position, might give ease both to the clergy and Nonconformists, by sanctioning, if not proposing, a law which should open the Church burial-grounds to those who could read without offence a service at once soothing to the living, and acknowledging the Christianity of the dead, even though they should die unbaptized.

Your Grace will understand that in this communication I complain more of the law than of our Vicar, of whom I should be very sorry to speak unkindly.

But I venture to hope with confidence that your Grace will, as a Christian man, seek, for the sake of charity, as well as for the sake of those common rights which all Englishmen ought to enjoy before the law, to afford relief to your clergy as well as Dissenters, that the one may be freed from their conscientious difficulties, and the other from being subject to indignities.

I am, with sentiments of great respect,

Your Grace's humble and obedient servant.

EDWARD TALBOT.

P.S.—A service was read at the Baptist Chapel before the corpse was taken to the ground, and outside the ground the Lord's Prayer was offered up and a benediction given.

To the above the following answer was received:—

"Lambeth Palace, May 20th, 1865.

"Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 18th, I have merely to remark that the service of the Church of England for the burial of the dead is intended for those who have been made members of the Church of Christ by baptism, and that to use that service over the unbaptized would be an anomalous and irregular proceeding on the part of a minister of the Church of England.

"I regret that the conduct of Mr. Merewether should be considered by any of his parishioners a cause of just

irritation, whereas he could not consistently with his duty have acted otherwise.

"I am, Sir, your faithful and obedient servant,

"C. T. CANTUAR.

"Rev. Edward Talbot, Tenterden."

The subjoined answer was returned:—

"Tenterden, May 23th, 1865.

"May it please your Grace,—As it appears from your Grace's communication of the 20th inst., 'that the service of the Church of England for the burial of the dead was intended only for those who have been made members of the Church of Christ by baptism,' it is evident, in order to remove a great hardship from Nonconformists, that an alteration should take place in the law.

"A very large and respectable body maintain that baptism should not be administered till those to be baptised have attained to years of discretion; many who regard the baptism of infants and young children as discordant with the spirit of the Gospel make use of forms not canonical, according to the views of the Church of England; many, also, deny the perpetuity of the rite of baptism, and only dedicate their children. All these parties, as the law now stands, may be debarred from Christian burial in the parochial churchyards, which, in rural districts, are for the most part the only places of burial.

"I cannot but think that Parliament will be able to find a remedy for this grievance. The first step towards this result, however, is that there should be a clear understanding of the present state of the law.

"I thank your Grace for your prompt and unambiguous reply.

"As this is a subject of public interest, unless I hear to the contrary, I shall suppose I have your Grace's permission to publish your communication, and the letter which led to it.

"I am, your Grace's humble obedient servant.

"EDWARD TALBOT.

"To his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury."

TERRIBLE RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

On the Great Western Railway, between Salford and Keynsham, some five or six miles from Bristol, the down passenger train leaving London at 8.10 p.m. had, at midnight on Tuesday, been stopped on a steep embankment, half a mile east of Keynsham, owing to the driver thinking that he had either run over something or that the crank-axle was broken. Having examined his engine, and found everything to be right, he had just started his train, when the special mail-train leaving London at 8.46, and going about the same speed as the fast (8.10) train, was heard approaching. There was a dense fog at the time. The passenger-train comprised an engine, tender, van, a first and a second-class carriage, and horse-box, in the latter being two cows and a pony, while the carriages contained about twenty-five passengers. The mail-train dashed into the horse-box, knocking out one side of it, killing the pony, and throwing the body on the top of the first-class carriage. The last compartment of the latter was completely smashed to pieces, the other parts escaped; but the second-class carriage, which was in the middle of the train, sustained the most damage, being made a complete wreck. In this, unfortunately, were most of the passengers, and numbers of them sustained serious injuries. One gentleman, Mr. Vowles, a tradesman of Bristol, had his leg broken, but fortunately this was the most serious case. The last person extracted from the second class carriage was Mrs. Floyd, a lady of Sloane-street, Chelsea. Her legs and dress were so jammed between the fractured seats, that she could only be extricated by having nearly all her clothing torn off her. The stoker lies at the hospital at Bristol.

At Rednal, a station on the Shrewsbury and Chester Railway, a large excursion-train, consisting of thirty-two carriages, and drawn by two powerful engines, was proceeding on Wednesday from Liverpool to Birmingham. The rails had been newly relaid, a portion of them had not been ballasted, and on approaching that portion of the line the carriages began to oscillate fearfully. The train was proceeding at great speed, and the drivers, seeing the danger, attempted to draw up, but were unable to do so, and both engines dashed off the line, proceeding in opposite directions. From 800 to 900 persons were in the train. The engines and a great portion of the carriages were smashed to atoms. One of the stokers was killed, and one of the drivers was seriously injured. When the mangled bodies of the passengers were got out, it was found that seven men and women and two children were killed, and about fifty persons, including men, women, and children, were more or less injured, the greater portion of them very severely. The bodies of the dead, who in most cases were frightfully disfigured, were removed to the goods shed, while those who were injured were sent to Shrewsbury. There have been two more deaths from this accident, George Kent, of Greenwich, and Anderton, the driver of the first of the two engines which ran off the metals. Of the injured persons, Mr. Hughes's case is considered to be the only one now likely to prove fatal, but his recovery is said to be hopeless. The coroner's jury on Friday returned the following verdict:—

We bring in a verdict of accidental death. We find that there was great blame attached to the officials of the Great Western Railway Company in not providing sufficient break-power before leaving Chester, and in not providing better carriages and engines in this excursion train. We consider that the engineers were guilty of gross and culpable negligence in not attending to the signal put up by the plate-layer, and in going at too great a speed over the defective portion of the line between Babinswood bridge and the scene of the accident. We think the plate-layers were also guilty of gross and culpable negligence in not properly and sufficiently packing the sleepers so as to make them secure enough to bear so heavy a train as the excursion train.

The foreman afterwards added that the jury had carefully avoided the word "wilful" in their verdict

because they did not wish to bring in a verdict of manslaughter. Mr. Grierson (representing the Railway Company) said the verdict would be duly laid before the Great Western Company.

This terrible calamity has been followed by another on the South-Eastern line, arising from a similar cause, and involving the death of at least ten persons, and injuries of a fearful character to several others. The tidal train from Folkestone was on its up journey on Friday afternoon, with a fair complement of passengers, when it arrived at a little stream crossed by a bridge near the Staplehurst station. On this bridge platelayers had been at work repairing the line, and, of course, disturbing the permanent way. To what extent displacement had occurred, what was the actual defect in the line at the moment, and how it came to be there without sufficient warning displayed—all these are questions which the inquest must resolve for us. What we know at present is this,—that as the engine passed over this point it was thrown off the rails. Then the train parted in the middle, and a portion of it, comprising seven or eight carriages with their occupants, was hurled from the bridge down a fall of several feet into the stream below. Of the sequel we can only say that it was death and ruin. Carriages and passengers, wood, iron, flesh, blood, and bone, were all smashed together into a heap of pulp, imbedded, like some ancient deposit, in the mud of the river. Ten corpses were at length extracted from the crushed and soaking mass, and there ends our knowledge of the catastrophe.

There is no doubt whatever as to the exact cause of the accident. The platelayer, Benge, admitted to Mr. Eboral that he had imagined that the statement in the time-book referring to Saturday, that the tidal train would be due at five o'clock, had reference to Friday, and that he, therefore, removed the metals at the bridge at two o'clock, calculating that he would have ample time to replace them before the train was due; but it turned out that on Friday (as the platelayer might have read in the book) the train was due at three o'clock, and it consequently came to the spot at a moment when there was a space of near forty feet without rails, and thus this terrible calamity took place.

A passenger in the train has given the following account of the accident:—

Just as the train arrived at Staplehurst, and while I was reading the severe comments made in one of the morning papers on the railway accident at Shrewsbury, I and my fellow-passengers were startled by a deep and heavy sounding noise; then followed two terrible jolts or bumps, and in an instant afterwards, from bright sunshine all became darkness, and to me chaos. In a second or two I found myself enveloped in moisture, and then in the terrible din I became conscious that an accident had happened to the train in which I was a passenger. I found myself afterwards up to my knees in water, in the middle of a heap of broken carriages, amidst which the whole of the party I had seen but a short time ago on board the steamer were lying. The carriages, with one exception, I now discovered had been thrown from the bridge over which the trains pass at Staplehurst into the water below, and death and destruction reigned around. The remains of the shattered carriages were projecting wheels upwards from the water, and the screams of the sufferers were heartrending. Immediately I could relieve myself from my perilous position, I, with some other gentlemen, who fortunately escaped with a few bruises and a plunge in the water, endeavoured to extricate some of our less fortunate fellow-passengers. We succeeded, after great difficulty, in getting a female from the muddy bed of the river all but dead, and as we were assisting another sufferer, Mr. Charles Dickens, who was a passenger, came upon the scene. He, it appeared, had occupied a seat in the only carriage that did not go over the bridge, although the chance that it did not was the slightest in the world. This carriage, which was the first from the engine, had held firmly by the coupling iron to the tender, and thus it was prevented from sharing the fate of the others, although it literally hung half upon the line, half down the bank, and high above the terrible confusion below. Mr. Dickens was most energetic in the assistance he rendered to his fellow-passengers. I heard this gentleman call for brandy for some of the wounded persons, but unfortunately none was at hand, it being with the luggage or else in the possession of those who were struggling in the river. As brandy was not to be had, Mr. Dickens took off his hat, and having filled it with water, I saw him running about with it and doing his best to revive and comfort every poor creature he met who had sustained serious injury. Another gentleman, whom I afterwards discovered to be Mr. Samuel Reed, a gentleman connected with the *Illustrated London News*, acted in a praiseworthy manner, for although he had a narrow escape from a terrible death, he with great nerve assisted in extricating those imploring help from beneath the carriages. One lady whom I had particularly noticed on board the steamer as being a very fine and handsome person, I saw taken from the water; she had been actually crushed to death, and as she was laid on the bank, her husband, who had been previously frantically running about, exclaiming, "My wife, my wife!" came up, and when he discovered that the mangled and disfigured corpse was that of her he was in search of, he sat down by the side of the body, a figure of utter despair. I cannot dwell upon the terrible scene. It is too much for human nature. Nine or ten persons had been killed, and God know how many wounded.

An inquest was opened in the course of Saturday, but, beyond the identification of the bodies for the purposes of removal and burial, nothing was done. The inquiry was resumed on Monday. The remaining bodies were identified, and the guard of the train was examined at some length. The inquest was then further adjourned. In the morning Henry Benge, the foreman platelayer, was brought up before the magistrates at Cranbrook. He was immediately remanded.

OVERCROWDING IN THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.

Dr. Lankester, F.R.S., took the chair on Wednesday evening at a meeting of the Health Department of the Social Science Association, when a paper was read by Dr. Hardwicke on the "Evils of Overcrowding in the Dwellings of the Poor, and Means suggested for their Removal." Dr. HARDWICKE pointed out that while public attention has long been directed to the benefits of water supply, drainage, and the removal of dangerous nuisances visible in shape and palpable to the senses, comparatively little has been done to remedy those equally dangerous but invisible poisons engendered by exhalation from the lungs and skin, the result of bad house accommodation for the poor in all parts of the country. After referring to what had been done by societies and private individuals in the endeavour to mitigate the evil for upwards of twenty years past, with little or no beneficial result, he described the deleterious and dangerous effect of the system of overcrowding, and proposed as remedies that parochial authorities and public companies should be compelled to exercise the powers they possess of purchasing sites and building houses for the proper accommodation of the poor, and greater facilities should be given, by means of cheap and convenient communication, to encourage the adoption of suburban dwellings; that changes should be made in the duties and mode of appointment of the medical officers of health; that the powers under the Common Lodging-house Act and the Board of Works should be greatly extended; that the laws for regulating the purchase of land should be properly adjusted in favour of facilitating small investments; and that the authority and duties of coroners might be considerably extended to inquiry into causes of sanitary neglect when the same has been supposed to produce disease or death.

Mr. LIDDLE, officer of health for the Whitechapel district, bore testimony to the difficulties surrounding the subject, and confessed, as the oldest sanitary officer in the metropolis, he was unable to name a remedy for the evil. He thought police supervision necessary, particularly at night, and doubted the expediency, for many reasons, of establishing a "faubourg" in the suburbs, but rather that the poor should live more among the wealthy; also, that where the dwellings of the labouring classes had been pulled down, others on an improved system should be erected.

Mr. COLLINS, chairman of the Sanitary Commission of St. Pancras, described the difficulty of enforcing sanitary regulations. The poor, from their very helplessness, looked upon landlords as their common enemies, and were obliged with the small means at their disposal to abide by the endurance of filthy and wretched accommodation or go to the workhouse. He therefore thought that landlords should be compelled to let their houses in habitable condition.

Mr. GEORGE GODWIN, F.R.S., instanced the want of public feeling and interest in the matter. Twelve and fourteen years ago the same horror was momentarily evinced by the public on the occurrence of frightful cases of overcrowding, and yet the evils not only exist, but are increasing. He thought the only remedy was the extension of the provisions of the Common Lodging-house Act to inspection over houses where more than three families resided.

Dr. DRUITT thought the various sanitary societies should be amalgamated, for the purpose of bringing this and others similar to an issue. He described how the model lodging-houses at the West-end had been converted into workshops by the journeymen tailors, and the great want of some controlling power over their habits of living. He also gave numerous instances of the great necessity for a stricter system of supervision.

After some further observations from Dr. Buchanan, who spoke in favour of registration, and Mr. Althans, Mr. Hastings, Mr. C. Clark, Dr. Hardwicke, and the Chairman, a vote of thanks was given to Dr. Hardwicke for his valuable paper.

The "Flâneur," in the *Star*, says, for the second time since the establishment of *Punch*, four-and-twenty years ago, the proprietors are about to be summoned to the law courts on an action for libel. The aggrieved person in the present instance is no less a one than the renowned Mr. Cox, the intelligent and highly educated member for Finsbury, who, writhing under some pungent chaff, has solemnly appealed to the legal powers that be for redress.

CHANGE IN DRESS FASHIONS.—Crinoline, in the shape of steel-hooped petticoats, is certainly doomed, though it will, of course, die a lingering death, and prevail for some time with the servants when it has been discarded by the mistresses. It is a fact that at the opera, the theatre, at flower-shows, and indeed at all public places, ladies may now be seen without an atom of steel cunningly concealed in their underclothes. And they are full-dressed ladies of fashion, too; leaders of *ton* and denizens of the *beau monde*. Manly fashions, too, are undergoing mutation. Peg-top trousers are decidedly going out; not going out wider and more peg-toppy, but ceasing to be made at the fashionable tailors! Unmentionables are all but tight; indeed, they approach the "horsy" character. Long and solemn frock-coats, too, have had their day, and gentlemen from "Noah's Ark" no longer promenade in threes along Piccadilly and by the rails in the "Ladies' Mile." A sporting era in matters sartorial seems to be setting in, and cut-away skirts, with outside pockets, adorn the manly forms of our young aristocrats in town.—*Court Journal*.

Postscript.

Wednesday, June 14, 1865.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords last evening, on the motion of Earl GRANVILLE, seconded by Lord MALMSEY, an address of congratulation to her Majesty on the birth of another Prince was agreed to. Lord CHELMSFORD introduced the subject of the Abyssinian captives, and urged the sending of a mission to procure their relief. Earl RUSSELL was afraid such a course would be useless. The Public-houses Closing Act (1864) Amendment Bill passed through committee after considerable discussion. The fifth clause was struck out. Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY moved the second reading of the Partnership Amendment Bill. Lord St. LEONARDS opposed it, as calculated to sap the foundation of the commercial greatness of the country. Lord CRANWORTH and the LORD CHANCELLOR supported the bill, which was opposed by Lord WENLEYDALE. The bill was read a second time. Several other measures were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned at five minutes to eight o'clock.

The House of Commons had a morning sitting yesterday. The Prisons Bill was read a third time and passed, after some opposition from Mr. NEATE. The Greenwich Hospital Bill passed through committee, and several other bills were advanced a stage.

At the evening sitting Sir W. FRASER moved for a commission to inquire into the operation of the Acts relating to the paving, lighting, and cleansing of the metropolis. He spoke in anything but complimentary terms of the manner in which the streets were managed. After some discussion, Sir G. GREY said the remedy for the evils complained of lay in extending the powers of the Metropolitan Board of Works. The motion was withdrawn.

The House then entered upon a long discussion in reference to the Belfast riots. It was begun by Mr. O'REILLY, who analysed the evidence taken by the commissioners at Belfast, and pointed out that there had been great neglect on the part of some of the magistrates of the borough. He concluded by moving a resolution that an inquiry into the conduct of the magistracy was necessary. Sir R. PEEL opposed the motion, which eventually was negatived by 132 votes to 39.

Mr. H. BERKELEY rose to postpone the motion on the subject of the Ballot of which he had given notice, and was greeted with loud and continued cries of "Go on." He said that at that late hour of the night (20 minutes past 12) he did not think he would be doing justice to so great a question by going on with his motion. (Loud laughter.)

The debate on the second reading of the Theatres Bill was postponed. Resolutions for a further grant towards the coast fortification having been adopted, the other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at 20 minutes past 1 o'clock.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

Telegrams from Rome report that Signor Vegazzi has held two conferences with Cardinal Antonelli since his return to that city. It is stated that the Pope assembled the Cardinals at the Vatican, and communicated to them personally the answer of the Italian Government to the proposals respecting the Episcopacy. Some difficulty is alleged to exist still in reference to the oath of allegiance to the King of Italy which the bishops are required to take, but the Pope himself is represented as favourable to the proposals which Signor Vegazzi is commissioned to make. The negotiations are said to be creating great dissatisfaction in Italy, where public opinion sees in them the symptoms of a disposition on the part of the King to propitiate the Pope by the compromise of some of the national claims of the country.

The statement that the Italian member of Parliament now in the hands of Neapolitan brigands had been put to death by them, is positively contradicted by the military authorities of the district.

An agent of Juarez is reported to be in Turin endeavouring to enlist officers and men who formerly served under Garibaldi for the service of the Mexican President against Maximilian and the French. It is asserted, however, that the chiefs of the party of action have rejected his advances.

Prince Napoleon has met with an accident. While he was driving in the Champs Elysées, his horses, which were too spirited, overturned his carriage. The Prince was thrown out, and received some contusions.

The *Moniteur* of yesterday publishes the circular of the Minister of Marine to the maritime prefects, announcing that belligerent rights are no longer to be accorded to Confederate vessels entering French ports.

MARK-LANE—THIS DAY.

Fresh up to our market to-day the arrivals of English wheat were very moderate, but the condition of the produce was good, and the supply on the stands being limited, factors held both red and white qualities at full prices. Sales progressed slowly, and the quotations were unaltered from Monday. With foreign wheat the market was but moderately supplied. American and good and fine old continental wheats are firm in price. Otherwise the foreign wheat trade ruled quiet, at late rates. Floating cargoes of grain were in steady request, and prices ruled firm. The supply of barley on sale was very moderate. Both grinding and distilling qualities moved off slowly, at late rates. The malt trade was quiet, on former terms.

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Arthur Miall, 18, Bouvierie-street, Fleet-street, E.C.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1865.

SUMMARY.

THE Times of this morning contains what looks like a semi-official announcement on our political prospects. In all probability, unless the loquacity or obstructiveness of members of the legislature should interfere, the present Parliament will be brought to a close on the 10th of July, and within a fortnight of that time at latest the country will be in the throes of a general election. There being no very pressing business after the close of the present Session, the new Parliament will not be called together before the usual period next year. The leading journal ventures to prophesy that "the Liberal party" will improve its position at the coming election, and the present Government "be more firmly seated in power at the meeting of the next than at any time during the present Parliament." The Times, as well as the other Ministerial journals, has taken no notice of the prominent statements of the Press that Lord Palmerston will retire from office after the elections are over, and will be succeeded by Earl Russell as Premier, and by Mr. Gladstone as leader of the House of Commons. The report is probably no more than an electioneering device to damage the prospects of the Government, for it is difficult to imagine Lord Palmerston, like the late Sir Robert Peel, as being anxious to bid adieu to official life, and content to act the part of moderator in the great council of the nation.

The list of new candidates for legislative honours is daily increasing, and is already a formidable host. Lawyers, railway directors, and persons of local wealth, are the most conspicuous aspirants, and all more or less give expression to their views on Parliamentary reform and Church-rates—very few even of the Tory candidates, venturing to declare that the constitution ought not to be amended. Among the boroughs, Finsbury, Edinburgh, Nottingham, and Coventry, are likely to be conspicuous among the rest for the fierceness of electoral strife. Four candidates are seeking the suffrages of the electors of Finsbury, all professing the same views, though only one of them, Mr. Torrens, can be said to possess the capacity of a statesman. In Edinburgh, Mr. Duncan, M'Laren, a veteran reformer, and Mr. Miller, a Free Churchman, have taken the field against the Lord Advocate and Mr. Black, and the bitterness of feeling created by the Annuity Tax raids is greatly helping their canvass. The discreditable efforts which are being made in Nottingham on behalf of Sir Robert Clifton are so disgusting the respectable part of the popula-

tion as almost to ensure the return of Mr. Morley in his place. The sudden death of Sir Joseph Paxton has created an immediate vacancy for Coventry, and the Liberals have very wisely combined their strength upon Mr. Mason Jones, who is carrying everything before him, and is not unlikely to become an M.P. before the present Session is at an end, and to carry in with him his Liberal colleague after the dissolution.

In the counties the Liberal party are likely to gain a few seats, though they will have to struggle hard for some they already possess, such as East Kent, where the issue turns mainly upon the ecclesiastical views of the Whig candidates. There is a good prospect that one Liberal will be carried in Hertfordshire, another in Herefordshire, that both the seats for South Durham will be occupied by men of progressive views, that South Lancashire will be secured for the Liberal party, and that one seat for North and South Essex respectively will be wrested from the Tories. We trust that the Dissenters of Wales will act up to the occasion. There seems to be no doubt that by union and energy the independent freeholders of Merionethshire have it in their power to return an advanced Liberal who would worthily represent, on behalf of the Principality, the principle of religious equality.

European news continues to be comparatively unimportant. The Emperor of the French has returned to Paris with renewed health and augmented popularity; the struggle between Herr Bismarck and the Prussian Parliament has developed some curious incidents; the Kaiser has been winning golden opinions among his Hungarian subjects at Pesth; and the negotiations between the Pope and the King of Italy have been renewed, and excite the distrust of Italian patriots.

RAILWAY DISASTERS OF THE WEEK.

TWENTY lives lost—more than double that number of human beings disabled, some of them probably for life—and four or five hundred so shaken or shocked that very few of them will ever travel with comfort again—such is the summarised result of a single week's negligence in railway management. The two former items must be debited to the Shrewsbury and Chester and the South-Eastern lines—to the last the Great Western has contributed its proportion. Our first reflection on reading the account of the unprecedented catastrophe on the Shrewsbury and Chester line was to the effect that as it was the first, so it would for a long time to come be the last, calamity brought about by the same easy and infallible method of mangling the Queen's subjects. That accident—no, it is sheer mockery so to describe it—that frightful homicide was the result of causes so definite, so preventable, so utterly disgraceful to the persons responsible for its occurrence, that we were unable to conceive the possibility of a repetition of it in any part of this kingdom, at least within the next five years. We took it for granted that a report of the event would instantly impress upon every man to whom was committed the supervision of platelaying, a caution which he could not readily forget—that thenceforth no man employed in this particular work would be foolhardy enough to dare unusual risks—that no rail would be loosened without an ample margin of time for relaying it before a train was due—that signalling would be attended to with nervous anxiety—that, in short, there could be no such convergence of desperate presumptions in future as led to the wreck of the excursion train from Liverpool. Never was reasoning more entirely baseless. Within a day or two there was a recurrence of the like negligence in an exaggerated form, and, we grieve to add, with a like issue. The last affair was in every feature of it worse than the first, and really tempts one to doubt whether people who have to deal with railway matters retain their senses after a certain period of employment.

The two cases of appalling destruction which have struck dismay into the heart of the public will go far to unsettle confidence in railway travelling for some months to come. They have disclosed a new source of danger—of danger which neither directors, nor traffic-managers, nor station-masters, nor drivers, nor electric telegraphs, nor strict punctuality can avert. Everything belonging to a train may be thoroughly well appointed—everything connected with the service well organised—but to what purpose if the lives of the passengers are committed to the hands of a gang of platelayers left without competent superintendence? Imagine the outcry that would be raised, and justly too, were half-a-dozen day-labourers, thoughtless, reckless, or, even if habitually careful, uninstructed as to

the special peril to which they were exposed, and the precautions necessary to avert it, employed in storing a magazine with explosive materials, and were left during intervals of their work to do pretty much as they pleased. In this case the chief danger would be theirs; if an accident occurred, theirs would be the sure penalty. The task of shifting metals on a railway, especially where traffic is considerable, is even more perilous—but the liabilities are those far rather of unsuspecting passengers than of the platelayers themselves. It is difficult to estimate the criminality of the men, whoever they may be, whose duty it is to exercise the vigilant control over ignorant workpeople holding such a tremendous stake in their hands. The difference of a few minutes in timing their operations may be all that is interposed between life and death to a score of passengers. An insufficient signalman may doom hundreds of families to irreparable loss and misery. And yet, within two days we have seen that vigilance withdrawn in two instances, or so insufficiently exerted as to have conducted to frightful slaughter.

Some little relief from anxiety would be gained for travellers if one could point out a reliable preventive against this new class of disasters. The most alarming feature of them is that they are due to causes which, until they disclosed themselves in consequences of such terrible magnitude, were never suspected to exist. They are so easy to prevent; they were believed to be so sure of being guarded against, they reveal such an amount of criminal recklessness in regard to other people's lives, that one despairs of the efficacy of reasonable precautions. No self-acting contrivance will apply—no mechanical invention. Where platelaying is going on—and on what line of railway is it not?—our lives whenever we trust ourselves to a journey are dependent on the prudence of men whose very occupation familiarises them with daily risks. The law, we fear, cannot materially help us in this matter. What penalty will a man regard, if he is not to be deterred from saving a few minutes by the possibility of scattering death and destruction over the area of his work? The truth is, the responsibility is committed to a class of men of a lower average of intelligence and moral feeling than it presupposes, or, at any rate, should presuppose—and a higher class would, of course, require higher remuneration. The evil is one of those which must, we are afraid, work its own cure. Directors will be compelled by a diminution of traffic, and by the enormous cost of these disasters, to exact heavier securities from those who contract to keep their roads in repair, and contractors will find it essential to their interest to place their gangs under more intelligent and careful supervision. No doubt, this will eat into profit—but, even in a merely pecuniary point of view, one such catastrophe as either of those which happened last week will absorb more than all the savings which are got out of an ill-applied parsimony. If, however, a prompter and more stringent remedy can be devised, by all means let it be instantly suggested, and, if possible, legally enforced. The defect to be got rid of seems to us a moral one, and to call for moral appliances in order to its cure. That is our impression. We shall be glad to find ourselves mistaken. But meanwhile we cannot but regard the twin accidents as the outcome of a radically bad system of carrying on all businesses in which the lives and happiness of others is chiefly concerned. The wonder to us is that deplorable results occur so comparatively seldom.

AMERICA.

ONCE more the New York correspondent of the Times has exhibited his profound ignorance of American affairs. His vision of a resuscitated Southern Confederation in Texas, with its army of "fully 85,000" maintaining a gallant struggle for years to come amid the trackless prairies of that extensive State against the whole power of the United States, drawing together all the malcontent spirits of the conquered Slave States, and in secret alliance with the Mexican Empire, has been unkindly dispelled by General Kirby Smith himself. That insurgent chief has not waited for the onslaught of General Sheridan, but has made haste to accept the terms of surrender accorded to Lee, Johnston, and Taylor. The American civil war is absolutely at an end, and from Fort Monroe to Galveston there is not a band one hundred strong in arms against the Union. Utterly crushed on land, the Confederation is represented on the ocean by one solitary vessel, the Shenandoah, which was last heard of cruising about in the seas around Australia.

No sooner had armed resistance ceased throughout the American Republic than President Johnson issued an amnesty proclamation restoring the great body of the Southern

people engaged in the rebellion to the rights of property, on their taking an oath to support the Government and all laws and all proclamations issued during the war in reference to emancipation, but reserving the case of the leaders, officers above a certain grade, officials and landed proprietors for separate consideration. "Those comprised in the excluded classes desiring to obtain the benefit of the amnesty must make a special application to the President for pardon, when such clemency will be liberally extended to them as may be consistent with the facts of the case and the peace and dignity of the United States." The President has given proof of his merciful disposition by entirely remitting the sentence passed by a military commission on Senator Harris of Maryland. The leaders of the Southern Confederation are now nearly all in custody, and it is probable that in the majority of cases the penalty of their "treason" will be banishment from the Republic and confiscation of their property. In the present temper of the American people, there is good reason to hope that none of the prominent actors in the late insurrection—not even Mr. Davis himself—will have to undergo the extreme penalty of the law. There will be trials for treason as well as for conspiracy to assassinate, and the revelations which are likely to be made of the objects, plans, and unscrupulous intrigues of the Confederates will no doubt strip them of that false lustre with which foreign sympathisers have invested their career. We expect to find many members of this Southern "chivalry" convicted of the deliberate starvation of hundreds of hapless Federal prisoners. But unless—which is now improbable—they can be clearly implicated in the assassination plot, we doubt not the magnanimity of the American people will gain the ascendancy.

But, apart from its bearing on the reputation of the United States, we care so little for the fate of Davis, Breckenridge, and the whole band of reckless slaveowners who plunged their country into war to gratify their own ambition, and perpetuate slavery, that we do not feel any inclination to expend superfluous sympathy upon them. Their utter overthrow has, happily, opened a new and brighter era for the United States, and is, as the *Daily News* remarks, "almost equivalent to the annexation of a new country, as the superior cultivation now introduced will speedily reclaim the vast tracts of land in all the other Southern States which the slaveholders, having partially worn out, were compelled to abandon." And Northern energy and Northern capital are already going Southward, and they will be expended, not in hazardous speculations, but inculcating a fruitful soil, in creating a new class of freeholders in the Southern States, who will in due time be a counterpoise to the remnant of the slave aristocracy, and who, by finding means to make negro labour profitable alike to master and servant, will enable the South to pass through a trying and momentous social revolution.

It is manifest that the North is earnest in the work of emancipation, and that, on no consideration, will it allow slavery under any guise to be perpetuated in the reconquered States. This we take to be the cardinal object of President Johnson's policy as revealed in his treatment of North Carolina. He has appointed as provisional Governor of that State Mr. Holden, who, though he joined in the secession movement, did so under coercion. That functionary has been authorised to call a convention, the members of which are to be chosen by loyal persons only—that is, we suppose, those who have taken the oath required by the amnesty proclamation. This convention is empowered to reconstruct the State Government, and revise the State laws. Under such auspices, there can be no doubt that emancipation will be legally ratified, all the State enactments bearing upon the regulation of slavery swept away, and the industrial rights of the negro fully recognised. This is reconstruction from the foundations—an assertion of the popular will over State rights which really alters the constitutional basis of the Union, and merges the State in the nation. How this new system will work remains to be seen.

But leaving this complex constitutional problem for future consideration, the general bearing of the American people at the final close of this terrible civil war is as gratifying as it is remarkable. To no single person has the British public been so indebted for a calm and intelligent elucidation of the whole subject as to the New York correspondent of the *Daily News*. In one of his latest letters, that painstaking observer takes a general survey of American opinion which is well adapted to correct misconceptions and enlighten English ignorance. In reference to foreign relations, he says that all bitterness of feeling towards England and France seems to have disappeared. He writes:—

Men are even giving signs of apathy or indifference about the Alabama depredations, a subject which until

now was always sufficient to rouse the most phlegmatic at least into energy of expression. There is far less excitement about Mexico, and I cannot help thinking greater carelessness about Maximilian's presence there, than there was six months, or even a year ago. There are, in fact, a thousand signs one sees in the clubs, the streets, the drawing-rooms, and the counting-houses, that the nation at heart is turned towards peace and the things of peace; that it is satisfied with its military achievements and the position they have won for the country amongst the nations of the earth, and that it is engaging once more with renewed zest in the pursuit of its old aims.

The American people have been touched by the manner in which the news of Mr. Lincoln's death was received in this country, and are disposed to concur in the suggestion "that the chastisement of those in England who have occupied themselves during the last four years in blackguarding the North may be safely left to their own countrymen." In preference to the indulgence of international soreness, they take comfort in the thought that "they have sown the seed, and that they will witness the triumph in the old world of those principles which have been here successfully asserted and defended on the battle-field, and that they can now sit down and watch the struggle in peace." The Americans have work enough before them to absorb all their thoughts, such as the development of the material resources of the country, the reorganisation of Southern industry, the discussion and settlement of questions of taxation, and administrative reform. The people are not waiting for the slow action of the Legislature or the Executive. That great voluntary organisation, the Sanitary Commission, having finished its special work, is using its machinery and turning its energies into another field of philanthropic enterprise. The combined efforts of the Freedmen's Aid Societies and the Sanitary Commission have established in every Southern State the nucleus of a system of popular education for the coloured race, and are now directed to the object of securing the negroes the right of voting, as a necessary part of any plan designed to start them in their upward course.

In this way the Northern States are falsifying the sinister predictions of European prophets, showing on the largest scale that national prosperity and glory can be best developed by free institutions, and that the democratic form of government, so far from being an incentive of strife and turbulence, is conservative of all that is good and virtuous in modern society.

NOTES OF THE SESSION.

RAILWAYS are in special request, at the present time, by our overtaxed representatives, who have duties in the country as well as in town, are obliged to carry on alternately the work of legislation and canvassing, and have to woo their constituents by votes at Westminster, and speeches from the local platform. On such questions of importance as the Roman Catholic Oaths Bill, there has been a good muster of members, and we doubt not to-day's attendance on the Oxford University Tests Abolition Bill, if the Opposition intend to oppose the second reading, will be still larger. But on Thursday, when the Commons re-assembled after the Whitsun recess, and on Friday—on both of which nights Supply was the order of the day—the votes were with few exceptions hurried over by a handful of members. We are glad that the Irish *Regium Donum* was not allowed to pass unchallenged, though there were but fourteen to oppose the proposed slight increase of the vote for new ministers to be taken on to the paupers' roll. But five of this small minority uttered their verbal protest against the dole; Sir G. Grey somewhat emphatically denied that the Government had given any pledge whatever to increase it; and the Irish members showed their usual perversity in such matters by supporting the grant. We have no doubt that the debate will do some good, as helping to swell that chorus of public disgust at the mendicancy of the Irish Presbyterians which is now shared in by their co-religionists in Scotland. On Friday, after an interesting discussion on the British Museum—the contents of which are clearly doomed to dispersion—a portion to the inevitable South Kensington—the House despatched most of the remaining estimates, but broke down on the Post Office Packet Service, and was counted out.

The Irish Catholics have been rewarded for their perseverance—Mr. Monse's Bill to simplify the oath required from members of that persuasion having passed through committee on Monday night, when the first and only clause was proposed. Sir Hugh Cairns moved the restoration of all that part of the oath which refers to the Irish Protestant Establishment; but met with an opponent in Mr. Hunt, one of his own party, who took the ground that the oath was no security to the Irish Church, and that no member should be precluded from voting

on any question before the House. Mr. Disraeli made the best of an embarrassing position; and though his arguments were ingenious they produced no impression on either side of the House. The right hon. gentleman does not, he says, attach much value to oaths at all, and if there were none other than the oath of allegiance he thought they might do without any. But when they took the oath to the constitution, he remembered that the Church was part of the Constitution, and would do nothing to diminish the status of the Church; and all the hostile motions on that subject, he argued, tended to endanger the State and not the Church. The right hon. gentleman, while supporting Sir H. Cairns, sought to conciliate the Catholics by expressing his regret at the probable destruction of the temporal power, and the injury of the spiritual power "of an ancient throne,"—meaning the Papacy. But he still thinks there should be one uniform oath for members of Parliament, and would have proposed that the subject should be considered by a select committee, had the forms of the House permitted. He does not, moreover, object to the repeal of declarations offensive to Catholic feeling, nor does he consider that the Established Church depended on any oaths. But—and the conclusion is really a wonderful one—"if there is created in the country a general opinion that Parliament has formally renounced its allegiance to the Established Church of this country, such a sentiment of alarm, and, perhaps, of indignation, will be excited that the policy which he had always supported, and wishes to support—namely, meeting the claims of our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen in a spirit of rational conciliation—will be greatly obstructed and endangered." So that, after all, Mr. Disraeli only opposes the Catholic claims on a peradventure! Sir George Grey who spoke strongly in support of the Bill and asked with some sarcasm whether a measure which was supported by Protestant Dissenters was likely to create much alarm on behalf of Protestantism, said that he also hoped for a uniform oath. But to carry the amendment of Sir Hugh Cairns was the way to frustrate that object. The Home Secretary pertinently asked, "Does the right hon. gentleman mean to say that he would impose on Protestant Dissenters the same oath which he wishes [Roman Catholic members to take? If not, the insertion of those words is a declaration that you will not have an uniform oath; that you propose to perpetuate the distinction." Considering the many urgent calls upon the time of members just now, the presence of 313 on Monday night was a strong muster. The smallness of the majority, nineteen, may possibly embolden the Lords to throw out the Bill, though there is said to be some hope that they will not take that course. We cannot, however, help regretting the absence of many names from Monday's division list we should have expected to find there.

Subsequently the agricultural members were able to take their revenge on Mr. Villiers for the deadly blow he had aimed at close rural parishes, by opposing his Bill to provide for the continuance of the Poor Law Board for a limited period, and in several particulars amending the law regulating the relief of the poor. This unfortunate measure, with its many new provisions requiring grave consideration, was pulled to pieces by a number of willing critics, and the second reading was carried only by a majority of seven, with the prospect that it will have to be turned into a Continuance Bill for one year to insure its speedy passage. More Bills were introduced by Government till the patience of the House was exhausted, and an adjournment was insisted on at about three o'clock.

The House of Lords did not reassemble after the holidays till Monday, when, after a conversation on belligerent rights and President Johnson's late proclamation raised by the Earl of Derby, the Union Chargeability Bill was proceeded with. The Duke of Rutland, according to notice, met the proposal for the second reading of the bill by a motion to refer it to a select committee, and by a speech which was directed against the measure as a whole. Some of his arguments, such as that the Bill would engender ill-feeling between different classes in the town and country, and endanger the understanding which at present exists between the rich and poor, were singularly infelicitous. His Grace was only supported by Lord Redesdale; all the other speakers on the occasion, even the most critical, testified to the value of the measure. When the division was taken no more than twenty-four peers followed the Lord of Belvoir Castle into the lobby. The majority was nearly four to one, and the minority does not include a single person of eminence; nor, are glad to observe, a solitary bishop. The opposition to the measure in the Upper House, though led by a Duke, has quite broken down; and the Union Chargeability Bill will be one of the trophies of the Session of 1865.

NON-MEMBERS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

ANY of our readers who may chance to have a taste for verjuice or the acrid pulp of the sloe, have no doubt already discovered that they may depend on at least one or two of the writers in the *Saturday Review*, for a weekly supply of these or very similar dainties. One article in that clever periodical, of which we retain at this moment a vivid remembrance, appeared aimed expressly at the mountain scenery of England and Wales, which, by a judicious mixture of a little flattery with a great deal of dispraise, was effectually "damned with faint praise." It was from the pen, apparently, of some experienced climber of "Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers," and the tone of half contemptuous pity with which he set down the pretensions of Skiddaw and Helvellyn, claimed at all events the merit of consistency, for he had clearly grown tired long since of the Alps, and seemed in great danger of being left without an object in life, unless he could contrive to make his next holiday among the Himalayas.

It would be the height of presumption in us, to propose to measure swords with so redoubtable an antagonist. We have no title whatever to discuss the subject of mountains, with a man who makes no more of ascending Mont Blanc than of eating his breakfast. But we mean to think well of dear old Westmoreland and Cernarvonshire still, for all his gibes and condescending speeches. If such pleasures be of a simple, elementary kind, they are also very wholesome and very great. There are persons, we dare say, who must put at least a week's travelling between them and England, before they feel that they have escaped from the prison-house of politics or trade; but we can only conclude that it is so much the worse for them. Our sentiments are not exactly those of the deservedly renowned "Marchioness," who found water with a bit of orange-peel in it, very like lemonade or wine, if only "you made believe very much." We have no design of so practising on our own credulity, as to try hard to persuade ourselves the next time we ascend Cader Idris, that we are somewhere among the Dolomite Mountains, instead of within a three hours' walk of Dolgelly. But neither are we ambitious, in our rambles any more than in our estates, to be simply "spacious in the possession of dirt." A certain American poet perhaps pushed his philosophy a trifle too far, when he made a squirrel retort on a mountain,

If I am not so tall as you,
You are not so small as I,
And not half so spry.

Nevertheless there was something to be said even for the squirrel; and for hill against mountain, or English scenery against Alpine, we submit there is a very great deal to be said. Bigness is not by any means the sole essence of sublimity. To get fifteen thousand feet above the level of the sea, is not necessarily, either to the body or the mind, a supreme felicity or an unmixed good. The feel under your feet of elastic heather, or the smooth turf of "the sheep-trimmed down," may be a sensation not altogether inferior to that of the Alpine mosses, or of hard or melting snow.

For ordinary lungs and ankle-bones, the considerations in favour of home and of foreign pedestrianising, respectively, are, on the whole, very evenly-balanced. To the trained and long-practised traveller, we have not a single word to say. But there are, we feel satisfied, many hundreds of intelligent Englishmen, whose pursuits during most of the year make pure air and vigorous exercise desirable, and who sometimes defeat their own object by endeavouring to pack into one short month, or yet shorter fortnight, an extensive foreign tour! To any one whose chief wish is to bring back to his study or his daybook the largest possible amount of health and good spirits, we commend the question whether it is worth his while to cross the Channel twice, when by doing less, he may, if he likes, really accomplish more.

Has he read the descriptions of North Devon scenery in "Two Years Ago," and the other work of the same author, and refrained hitherto from surveying for himself the cliffs and shelly beaches of that marvellous coastline, and inspecting the peculiar street architecture of Clovelly, where the shortest way from one house to another is understood to be down the chimney? Does he know how buried from the world are those deep recesses between the Yorkshire hills, each, as Wordsworth described them,

With its little patch of sky,
And little lot of stars;

And how the exquisite beauty and peacefulness of a glen such as Dent Dale appears, after the long miles of tawny grass and rough sheep-paths from which you first of all look down, and at last descend?

Or are the names of Ambleside and Troutbeck and of Wansfell, as fragrant to his memory, as the dried woodruffe between the pages of a volume of Shakespeare make them to ours? Did he ever set up his head-quarters at the place first mentioned, and take every day a different radius from that centre, finding out for himself all the separate and characteristic traits of the higher and the lower roads to Coniston; Great Langdale, broad and rich, and Little Langdale, narrow and wild; and the rowing on Windermere, everywhere pleasant, and delightful especially where the river made by the confluence of the Rotha and the Brathay enters the lake?

All these are tracts of country easily reached, and affording ample opportunity for a constantly varying series of exhilarating expeditions, yet without any too feverish excitement or exhausting fatigue. Not to make a grievous toil of a pleasure, is a maxim which we have found by no means always reduced to practice, even at home. It is no uncommon thing to meet, even on the shores of Loch Lomond or Derwent Water, with some "knight of a raeul countenance," who has run a tilt so savage during his first day or two, at immense feasts of walking and climbing, as to have to lie by for a week, with his joints stiffened and his cuticle flayed. One rule for a successful holiday, is never to lay out more work than you may reasonably hope to accomplish. Another which we venture to suggest, is that grandeur of scale in the country you visit, is of far less importance than a good choice of your companions, and a fixed resolve on your own part that you will care far less what you can report yourself when you go home as having seen and conquered, than to enjoy thoroughly what you do see.

Some conditions of mind and of brain there undoubtedly are, for which long-sustained, even violent, out-of-door gymnastics, are the only effectual counterpoise. To surmount the greatest possible number of physical difficulties in the shortest space of time, may in these circumstances be a salutary ambition. The prescription might run indeed almost in the very words of that venerable lyric which enjoins that for half your time you shall "go up, up, up!" and the other half (to some joints and muscles this is even more laborious) you shall "go down, down, down!"

But we are not addressing ourselves principally, just at present, to physicians or barristers overwhelmed with the cares of their profession, or to authors who have carried their weekly or daily delivery of "copy" to an extreme point of over-production. To those who are not in the least likely to apply for admission to the "Alpine Club," and who are perhaps even too distrustful of their own faculty of locomotion, we should like, we confess, to hint how much delight remains in store for them within less than a single day's journey from their own front door. Some of the purest and highest pleasures which come through the eye and the feeling for natural beauty (to say nothing of invigorated health), are due often to very short and improvised expeditions, a raid perhaps on the more sequestered nooks of some county quite unknown to romantic fame. There are many Englishmen, for example, to whom the mention of the High Peak in Derbyshire, recalls no associations but those of the "Blue John" mines, and one or two other similarly crystalline, but very dark and damp deep places of the earth. Yet in part composing, and in part skirting that great midland mass of unhewn fortification, there are hills far too many to be enumerated, within easy access from many a smoky and populous town, and each marked with attractive and distinct characteristics of its own. We are almost afraid, at the date at which we write, to say anything in favour of Kinderscout and the mighty fragments of millstone-grit which lie strown and piled together round his crest; to scale his sides just now, would involve too certain and extensive a disturbance of the grouse, especially of the hen bird which is now sitting, not to bring out upon the scene either a wrathful game-keeper, or a summons from his master when you reached home. But you may rove to your hearts content over Eccles Pike, or over Marple Ridge, and find no such "lions in the way." Or breast the broad slopes of Whaley Moor, and hear the curlew overhead answering with her sharp, wild note, the more sober-minded cuckoo lower down, as "he tells his name to all the hills," and look out well near the top, for an acre or two of wild pansies, very sweet to the smell, as well as bright to the eye. Or if a yet easier climb suits you, there is Taxel Edge, wooded from the bottom upwards, full of delicious resting-places, and just now carpeted from end to end with the whinberry, or bilberry, in flower, a plant which at this earlier season gives—the leaf yet more than the blossom—such a richness of colouring,

as not even the purple heather of the later summer will surpass.

A JEW'S WEDDING.

THE Jews are truly a peculiar people. We say that one-half of the world does not know how the other half lives. But who knows how the Jews live, save the Jews themselves? Most people know a Jew when they see him; there is a suspicion of untold wealth hanging about their aristocracy, and a certain capacity for bargaining and identity of physiognomy in all of them, which few can have failed to observe. But their religion,—their religious observances,—how many of our readers who have not made it a subject of special inquiry, know half of the absurdities, we had almost said barbarities, which enter into and constitute their creed?

A glance—a mere glance—at these observances was afforded to the public last week, when there appeared in the daily papers a somewhat detailed account of the marriage of Ferdinand de Rothschild with Miss Evelina de Rothschild, which took place on Wednesday evening at the Baron's new mansion at Hyde-park Corner. The *Times*, after describing the magnificent appearance of the ball-room, and enumerating the distinguished guests, gave the following account of the marriage ceremony:—

Shortly after six o'clock, the guests having assembled in the ballroom, Dr. Adler, the chief rabbi, assisted by Dr. Kahane and Mr. Green, prepared to perform the ceremony according to the ancient rites of the Jewish religion. A velvet canopy, supported at the four corners by the bridegroom's *garçons d'honneur*, was carried to the upper end of the ballroom. The bridegroom, Baron Ferdinand, was then led in by his nearest male relatives and placed under the canopy. The bride, who till then had remained in her own apartment, now descended to the ballroom attended by fourteen bridesmaids, attired in pink and white. The young ladies who thus shone in fair array behind the centre figure were Lady Diana Beauclerk, Lady Alice Hill, Miss Edith Montgomery, Miss Sybil Montgomery, Miss Ethel Lennox, Miss Constance de Rothschild, Miss Anne De Rothschild, Miss Hannah De Rothschild, Miss Alice De Rothschild, Miss Emma De Rothschild, and the Misses Margaret, Adelaide, Georgiana, and Bettina De Rothschild. At the door of the ballroom, the bride, who wore a dress of white lace, was met by her mother, who, assisted by her bridesmaids, completely enveloped her whole figure in a rich veil, which reached to the ground. She was then led into the ballroom, with the same ceremony as the bridegroom and placed with him under the canopy. All the gentlemen of the Hebrew faith having put on their hats, and the Chief Rabbi having pronounced a brief exhortation to the betrothed, the service was commenced in Hebrew. The first portion having been concluded, the bride and bridegroom drank of a cup of wine and water, and Baron Ferdinand, taking the ring, placed it on the bride's finger, repeating slowly and distinctly in Hebrew, "Behold, thou art betrothed unto me with this ring, according to the rites of Moses and Israel." The marriage contract was then read, and prayers resumed. At the conclusion of these the new-married couple again drank a glass of wine between them, and, the glass being placed on the ground empty, the bridegroom crushed it with his foot, all his relatives and friends wishing aloud at the same moment that the marriage might be happy, and the bride and bridegroom as irrevocably joined as the pieces of glass were for ever sundered.

The concluding sentence indicates that this act of demolition was intended to typify by contrast the union of bride and bridegroom, but it must have been only out of consideration to the contracting parties that so agreeable a construction was put upon it. According to ancient tradition, the bridegroom is to be by this reminded that "we are only like brittle ware, made of earth, glossy without, and rough within." Of course the full significance of this lesson is impaired where the glass flung down is of modern manufacture. The same authority also—tradition—says that the bridegroom shall dash the vessel to the ground. No such arrangement as that which we read of in the accounts of Mr. Rothschild's performance was originally contemplated.

Passing from this event to the notice of the Jewish marriage ceremony generally, it may interest some of our readers to learn a few additional particulars respecting the preliminaries. If the charms of a young Jewess attract the eye and enslave the heart of a Jew, he forthwith opens negotiations through his parents, represented by their broker, with the parents of his beloved one, they being also represented by their broker. If this proposal is accepted, courting then begins. Relieved from all embarrassment as to the precise mode in which the first step shall be taken, a still further security is provided that some definite business shall be before the betrothed when they meet, in the following regulation:—"After courting is begun, the clerk of the synagogue invites most and sometimes all acquaintances of bride and bridegroom to meet on the Sunday following, in the forenoon, at some house then pitched upon, and there the priest draws up the preliminaries of the marriage agreement, which, being read to all the company, is signed by both contracting parties, and therein is set down the day fixed on which they promise to be married to each

other"; and if the contracting parties fail in carrying out their agreement, "the aggressor pays a considerable penalty, usually amounting to one-half what the 'portion' was to have been." The priest then takes a glass of wine in his hand and says a prayer; he then takes a new pipkin and flings it to the floor before the bridegroom's feet. The bachelors present strive before leaving to carry away that they will all the sooner be married in consequence. The wedding of a maiden must always take place on a Wednesday; that of a widow usually on a Friday. It is the usual custom to invite the friends and relatives of the bride and bridegroom on the Sunday before and after the ceremony to a ball, at which dancing is kept up till midnight. The bridegroom pays for the hire of the musicians and the ballroom (*i.e.* pays the piper), and the young men treat their partners to wine and other refreshments such as they desire.

This single ceremony which has been thus made public in consequence of the illustrious company who took a part in it, is but one of the observances to which every true Jew is expected to adhere. The extent to which every member of that religious community is bound and fettered everywhere and in everything by the ordinances of his religion, it is impossible to conceive. From the time he rises in the morning to the time of retirement at evening, he is bowing to some exacting regulation. One can hardly imagine a man making it a part of his religion to hold his hands down when he washes them, to wash his right hand first, to put his stocking on the right foot before the left, to go quickly to church and to return slowly from it, &c. Can any commentary be more striking upon the words of our Saviour, "You have made the word of God of none effect through your traditions," than the fact that the Jews are commanded to wear fringes on their garments, made of eight twisted threads, to remind them of circumcision on the eighth day—five knots in them to remind them of the five books of Moses, and other windings and knots to remind them of the seventh day and the ten commandments. Imagine a number of sane gentlemen and ladies proceeding to an open space together at night time, muttering a prayer thrice repeated, and finishing up with three jumps! Yet this is what their religion ordains that they shall do, on each appearance of the new moon. The publicity which has been given to Ferdinand de Rothschild's wedding may excite some curiosity in the minds of people who have hardly given a thought to the Jews to acquaint themselves with the rites of their religion, and whoever does so can hardly fail to see that Christianity is the fulfilment of the law, and that the Jews' observances are a parody upon it.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords met on Monday after the Whitsuntide recess.

AMERICA.

In reply to a question by Lord Derby, Lord RUSSELL explained the course the Government had taken with regard to the recent change of affairs in the Southern States of America, and the termination of the war by the surrender of General Lee and the other Confederate commanders. Her Majesty's Government had withdrawn from the Confederate cruisers the rights of belligerents conceded by the proclamation of 1861. All the ports of America, including Galveston, were in the hands of the Government of the United States, and it would have been an anomaly had these vessels been allowed to proceed from port to port, receiving coal, and provisions under the terms of the proclamation, after the war had terminated. He believed the Government of the United States was prepared to abandon the right of search and capture of neutral vessels.

UNION CHARGEABILITY BILL.

Lord GRANVILLE, having presented several petitions in favour of the principle of a Union rating, moved the second reading of the Union Chargeability Bill. He described what had been the course of legislation on the relief of the poor from the date of passing the new Poor-law Act, to prove that its tendency had always been to shorten the period of residence that gives a legal settlement, and to equalise the rating. He then noticed the chief objections made to the measure. The measure would complete the principle of the measure of 1834, according to the recommendation of the best authorities, among whom were Sir J. Graham and Sir G. C. Lewis. He could see no ground or reason for referring the bill to a select committee, and he believed the motion was irregular in itself. The reference to a committee could not be proposed till the bill had been read a second time. In the next place, their Lordships could not receive any alterations of the bill originating in that House. The reason for referring a bill to a committee generally was that its details were numerous and intricate. This was a measure of few

clauses, and with no intricacy of detail. He hoped, therefore, the House would reject the motion and pass the bill, which he believed would ultimately prove beneficial to the interests of the owners of land.

Lord BROUHAM briefly supported the bill, the principle of which was approved by the authors of the reform of the Poor Law he had himself advocated more than thirty years ago. The bill now proposed would complete what was left imperfect in that great measure.

The Duke of RUTLAND then moved that the bill be referred to a select committee. He did so because he believed that measure would operate very unjustly in some localities. He read a number of letters and documents to prove this position, and contended that on such a question the House ought to proceed with great caution. He argued, further, that the bill would create mischievous distinctions between town and country, and destroy the present community of feeling between employers and the employed.

Lord SPENCER spoke in favour of the bill, and answered some of the objections made by the Duke of Rutland.

Lord ST. MAUR addressed the House on the influence of the law of settlement and the law of removal in restricting the field of employment for the labouring class. The bill, by removing these restrictions, would improve the position of the labourer.

Lord CARNARVON would vote for the second reading, though he thought it would have been better had some preliminary measure been introduced readjusting the present unions. It appeared to him that on this question both parties had overrated the results of the measure. They would not be so formidable as the opponents of the bill predicted; on the other hand, the supporters of the bill anticipated too many advantages from it.

Lord GREY approved the bill, the principle of which was sound. Too much of the vicious administration of the old system survived the change introduced by the Act of 1834, and it was necessary to remove it. He should vote for the second reading.

Lord REDESDALE doubted the policy of increasing the area of rating. Nor was a large area conducive to the good administration of the Poor Law. It had been a failure in London because the officials had no knowledge of the poor they relieved. This was not the case in the country, where the law could be well administered.

The House then divided on the question that the bill be referred to a select committee. The numbers were,—

Contents	...	...	24
Non-contents	...	...	86
Majority against the motion	—	63	

The bill was read a second time.
Their Lordships rose at a few minutes before ten.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FORGED PETITIONS.

On Thursday evening the House of Commons reassembled after the brief Whitsuntide vacation. One of the first matters brought under the notice of the House related to the culprits in the petition-forging case. The Sergeant-at-Arms reported that he had Powell Marshall and Henry Whitehead in custody, but that he had been unable to arrest George Morris Mitchell. Mr. HENNESSY presented a petition from Marshall and Whitehead, praying that they might be released, and he moved that the petition be acceded to. A brief discussion followed, nobody objecting to the release of the prisoners, and finally the motion was carried.

CONVOCATION AND THE CANONS.

In reply to Mr. Whiteside, Sir G. GREY said an address had been presented from the Convocation of Canterbury praying for licence to alter the 36th Canon and two others of a similar character. The Archbishop was informed in reply that the licence could not be granted in the form in which it was sought, because in that case the Crown would be giving by anticipation its sanction to a certain course, before what might be the ultimate decision of Parliament on the bill before them could be known. The Archbishop, however, was informed that if the object of Convocation was to bring the canons into harmony with the decisions of Parliament, licence would be granted in general terms, implying no sanction of what had been already done by Convocation without the consent of the Crown. There could be no objection to lay upon the table a copy of the licence when granted.

BIRTH OF THE YOUNG PRINCE.

On the motion of Sir G. GREY, seconded by Mr. DISRAELI, an address to her Majesty, congratulating her Majesty upon the birth of a Prince (son of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales), was agreed to *en bloc*.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into committee of supply on the Civil Service Estimates. The vote for the Consular establishments abroad was discussed at some length, and an attempt was made to reduce the amount, which was defeated on a division. The National Gallery, the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade, and other subjects, were also criticised. Finally all the votes in supply were taken save that for the British Museum and two supplemental votes—one for the Admiralty and one for buildings connected with the National Gallery.

IRISH REGIUM DONUM.

Amongst the votes opposed was that of 25,809*l.* to complete the sum voted for Nonconforming and other ministers, Ireland.

Major KNOX said he was surprised that it was not proposed to increase this vote. A deputation on the

subject had waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer last year, and the right hon. gentleman gave them reason to suppose that the Government would raise the salaries of the Presbyterian ministers in Ireland from 75*l.* to 100*l.* a-year. The right hon. gentleman was not now in his place to state why, though he had given that sort of pledge, he had not thought fit to fulfil it. The Presbyterians in the north of Ireland took a great interest in the matter, and they thought it very hard, when so many liberal allowances were made, that the stipends of the Presbyterian ministers should not be increased.

Sir G. GREY said the hon. and gallant gentleman must be mistaken in thinking that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had given any pledge whatever.

Major KNOX: He told the deputation that he would consider the matter.

Sir G. GREY: The Government were clearly of opinion that no increase whatever could be made.

Sir F. CROSSLAY was determined not to rest until this vote should be abolished altogether. It was a monstrous thing that the people of this country should have to pay not only their own ministers but the ministers of other people. He would not now propose the rejection of the vote altogether; but as there was an item of 300*l.* increase for new ministers, he should move to reduce the vote by that amount.

Mr. R. MILLS seconded the motion. Knowing the wealth of the Presbyterian body in the north of Ireland, he thought they were degraded by the receipt of this grant. It was given by Lord Castlereagh to obtain political influence, and the Presbyterians would be doing honour to their body if they now wiped their hands of it. Though the grant to individual ministers was only 75*l.* a-year, one clergyman, Dr. Cooke, got 250*l.* a-year out of the grant.

Mr. WHITESIDE said the hon. gentleman who had last spoken was singularly ill-informed. In the fervour of his patriotic indignation at the existence of any grant in favour of religion, he imagined that this grant arose from some Parliamentary corruption. This was an entire hallucination. The first person who made the grant to the old Presbyterian settlers was a Sovereign of whom, probably, the hon. member had heard—King William III. By his desire, and in consideration of great services performed at a critical period of English history, the Presbyterians in Ulster received a grant, for it was thought politic to encourage them to settle there. The grant was continued a long time by the Irish Parliament, and it was a fallacy to suppose that Lord Castlereagh originated it. Lord Castlereagh was a sensible man, and naturally desired to encourage the Presbyterians in the north of Ireland; but the sum of 75*l.* given to each minister was only given on condition that an equal sum was raised in the province. The hon. member complained that Dr. Cooke got the enormous sum of 250*l.* a-year. Now, he (Mr. Whiteside) had heard Dr. Chalmers, and thought that Dr. Cooke in the pulpit was fully equal to that divine in eloquence and genius. If Dr. Cooke had seven times the sum mentioned by the hon. member, he would be as well entitled to it as many a man who had been a bishop. For an hon. member in these days of Parliamentary purity to complain that an eminent scholar, a learned and able divine, and a celebrated preacher, after being fifty years in the ministry, received the magnificent sum of 250*l.* a-year, was a piece of religious intolerance which he hardly expected to hear from those benches. He thought that the grant was wisely made, and he was sure the House would support it. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. VANCE thought that this grant ought to be treated on the same footing as the Maynooth grant, and placed upon the Consolidated Fund. (Hear, hear.) Sir Robert Peel was asked whether he would make a proposal to this effect, and replied that if any member would do so he would support the motion. If the present Secretary for Ireland would submit such a proposal, it would receive general support from Irish members, and would prevent every year much unnecessary and unpleasant discussion. It had been stated that the Presbyterian congregations could well afford to support their own clergy; but he knew that some of them could not afford to do so. As to the proposed increase for the support of new ministers, that was a part and parcel of the compact, and he hoped the House would adhere to it.

Mr. GILPIN only regretted that the hon. baronet (Sir F. Crossley) had not moved to strike out the whole vote. In his opinion, if this compulsory payment were withdrawn, able ministers would be well supported, and, instead of receiving a pittance from this House, they would, if worth their bread, earn it from the free-will offerings of their congregations. This paltry grant was a dishonour to those who received it.

Mr. HENNESSY said the vote had been opposed hitherto by English members only, and those were members of a peculiar class—Volunteers. On the other hand, he believed the vote was supported by Irish members of every section; no vote excited greater unanimity among Irish members than that for the support of the Presbyterian clergy. The statement that it was recommended by King William III. was not, in his mind, an argument in favour of the vote. The fact was that at the time of the Union the Presbyterian clergy of the north of Ireland opposed the Union. In this, he thought, they acted the part of patriots; but if Lord Castlereagh intended to bribe them by what he then proposed, he certainly did not succeed in his object.

MR. WHITESIDE said that if he had any doubt as to the vote he should give, one remark made by the hon. member for King's County would have removed it. That hon. member told the committee that all Irishmen, Catholics and Protestants, were agreed on this question. Now, such unanimity was wonderful, and seemed possible to be brought about only by the opportunity of putting their hands into the pockets of the people. The vote was most unjustifiable, and he regretted that the rejection of the whole sum had not been moved. It was also a matter of regret that the hon. member for Sheffield (Mr. Hadfield) was unavoidably absent. He regarded the vote as most mischievous in its effects on the Presbyterian religion itself. The Presbyterians were the most opulent body in Ireland, and they ought to be ashamed of persisting in such disgraceful mendicancy. It was said that when Presbyterian congregations increased in size they often split up into separate congregations in order to obtain additional Parliamentary grants.

SIR R. PEEL said that the Presbyterian body was highly respectable, and worthy of every consideration on the part of Parliament—(Hear, hear)—and the increase in the vote was occasioned by the formation of fresh congregations. He was glad that the hon. member for Sheffield was not in the House, for his absence proved that the hon. member had withdrawn his opposition to the vote, finding opposition useless. The hon. member for Wycombe stated truly enough that Dr. Cooke received a large salary as agent for this fund. He received 320*l.* a-year for salary and allowances, stationery, postage-stamps, &c., as agent for the ministers of the General Assembly. There was also a salary paid to the agent of the ministers of the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster, of 230*l.*, which made up the 550*l.* stated in the vote. He hoped the hon. baronet (Sir F. Crossley) would not go to a division.

MR. F. PEEL said he had received a letter that morning from the hon. member for Sheffield (Mr. Hadfield), asking him to put off that vote till Monday, as he could not be present in the House that evening; but, having given notice that the vote would be taken that night, and finding that many members from Ireland had attended, expecting that it would now come on for discussion, he regretted that he could not accede to the hon. gentleman's request.

MR. BLAKE was sorry that the hon. member for Brighton, in the warmth of his opposition to religious endowments, should have allowed himself to be betrayed into using unjustifiable expressions towards the Irish Presbyterians. As a Roman Catholic himself, he must say that the Presbyterians were one of the most industrious and respectable bodies in Ireland. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the vote under discussion, he looked upon it as the result of a compact; and as long as the much larger endowments of the Established Church remained, he thought it a very paltry thing to grudge the Irish Presbyterians a grant of 40,000*l.*

MR. COX had no intention to offer any disrespect to the Presbyterians of Ireland, but he entirely objected to any grant out of the Consolidated Fund for the support of any particular form of religion. More than 200 years ago the Presbyterian body was brought from Scotland into Ireland by the Crown, no doubt with a view to the planting of their creed there. That might have been a right and proper proceeding at the time it was taken; but the Irish Presbyterians were now Dissenters from the Established Church, and one of the distinctive principles of their Dissent was a desire to be free and independent of the State. He regretted the absence of the hon. member for Sheffield, and knew that he was attending to his Parliamentary duties in the borough that he represented. (Laughter.) That hon. gentleman, though desirous of being present to move the entire rejection of that vote, had to address a meeting of his constituents that evening. (A laugh.) The mode in which that grant was distributed had the effect of causing a subdivision of congregations for the purpose of securing more of the public money. As a member of the Established Church himself, he thought it was the duty of every denomination to support its own religion out of its own means. On that ground he would vote for the motion of the hon. baronet to reduce the vote, and if that motion failed he would himself divide the House on behalf of his hon. friend the member for Sheffield against the entire vote.

The committee divided, when there appeared—

Ayes	...	...	...	...	14
Noes	...	...	...	...	51

Majority against reduction ... —37

MR. COX said, seeing the great disparity of numbers in the last division, he should not trouble the House with another division.

MR. SCULLY said, in voting for this vote he did it that it might remain in *status quo*. He was not in favour of increasing the grant. When any motion was brought forward for taking away the endowments of the Protestant Church altogether, he should be ready to vote in favour of the proposition.

The vote was then agreed to.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

The House then went into committee upon the Greenwich Hospital Bill (on recommitment), after a few remarks by MR. CAVE. Clause 5 was amended, on the motion of MR. CHILDERS, so as to include, under certain conditions, seamen of the merchant service. Other clauses of the bill were agreed to, after much discussion, and upon reaching the 15th the Chairman was ordered to report progress.

MR. WALPOLE obtained leave to bring in a bill to enable the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England to grant superannuation allowances to persons employed in their service.

MR. PEEL obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend

the acts for the establishment of a National Gallery in Dublin.

The House adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

On Friday the House had a morning sitting. The sitting was occupied with the discussion in committee of the clauses of the Prisons Bill.

When the House met again at six o'clock, the Marquis of HARTINGTON said he had seen the letter of Col. Dawkins in the newspapers, but after reading it he saw no reason to alter any of his previous statements on the subject.

THE LORD ADVOCATE withdrew the Writs Registration (Scotland) Bill.

On the motion to go into supply, MR. BLAKE, MR. WHITESIDE, SIR H. CAIRNS, MR. HENNESSY, and SIR R. PEEL joined in a solemn discussion on the use of handcuffs by the Irish constabulary.

SIR LAWRENCE PALK called attention to the recent railway accidents, and insisted that there should be communication between guard and driver and guard and passenger. He also asked whether the practice of locking the doors of carriages was not contrary to law. MR. MILNER GIBSON again recounted the difficulties in the way of providing the required communication between guard and passenger. He did not know whether it was illegal to lock the doors of carriages.

The House went into committee of supply, and MR. WALPOLE moved the vote for the British Museum. After a long discussion, the vote was agreed to. Some other votes were taken, and the House was counted out at ten minutes to nine o'clock, while a discussion was going on in reference to the vote for the Postal Packet Service.

ROMAN CATHOLIC OATH BILL.

The House of Commons on Monday having resolved itself into a committee on the Roman Catholic Oath Bill, on the first (and only) clause,

SIR H. CAIRNS moved the restoration, in the form of oath contained in the bill, of the following words contained in the oath prescribed by statute 10th George IV., cap. 7, sec. 2:—

I do swear that I will defend to the utmost of my power the settlement of property within this realm, as established by the laws; and I do hereby disclaim, disavow, and solemnly abjure any intention to subvert the present Church Establishment, as settled by law within this realm; and I do solemnly swear that I never will exercise any privilege to which I am or may become entitled to disturb or weaken the Protestant religion or Protestant Government in the United Kingdom.

MR. HUNT dissented from this amendment. He thought, if there was any oath, it should be a general uniform oath; and a distinctive oath for Roman Catholics would oppose an obstacle to such a measure. He did not consider the including the words in question in the oath would afford any security to the Established Church, or that any member should be precluded from voting upon all questions that came before the House.

MR. DISRAELI, acquitting MR. MONSELL of any sinister object, said he very much objected to this bill. He objected to its being brought forward by an individual member, and he thought it most unfortunate that member should be one professing the Roman Catholic faith. There must be some object in the omission proposed, and the natural conclusion was that it was favourable to the Roman Catholics, it was unfavourable to the Protestants. He did not agree that there should be no oath at all.

I think oaths ought to be as rare as they are solemn, but upon such a solemn occasion as taking their seats in that House it is fitting the sanction of the Most High should be appealed to. The Secretary of State suggested there should be only the oath of allegiance; but if that limited and utilitarian view were to be taken, why have any oath at all? The House will surely not be less secure with no oath of allegiance. The Queen reigns in the affections of her subjects, and if we sat in this House without any oath at all, I do not suppose it would diminish her authority; but the experience of mankind has taught us that the order and proprieties of life are best secured by appealing on solemn occasions to the fundamental principles of the constitution. But why take the oath of allegiance as proposed by the Secretary of State? It is a mere legal form, and so long as oaths are not discontinued, the oath of allegiance is one which everyone may take, more especially to a Sovereign who acknowledges her authority to be limited, and whose proudest boast is that she rules by constitutional authority. (Cheers.)

When they came to take an oath to the constitution, the difficulty arose with that part of the constitution which was represented by the Church, and he had himself contended against anything which tended to diminish the status of the Established Church in our constitutional system; but he had not done that because he thought that, to use a vulgar phrase, "the Church is in danger."

I believe that it is possible that all the motions brought forward by hon. gentlemen below the gangway should be carried, that the alliance between the Church and State might be terminated altogether, and yet that the power and influence and authority of the Church might not be diminished. (Hear, hear.) Nay, if the Church retained her property—and it is held by so complicated a tenure that confiscation would be more difficult than some imagine—the power of the Church must be very greatly increased. (Hear, hear.) If that alliance was terminated, what would be the power of the State? That would be greatly diminished not only in degree, but in quantity. It is not the Church that is endangered, it is the State that is endangered by these notions, which would lead to the great changes which some hon. gentlemen recommend.

He could not help believing that it was perfectly possible, without crippling the full controlling power and criticism of Parliament over every institution of this country, that an oath could be framed that every member of this House, whatever might be his

religion, might freely take, and which no sensible, loyal, and truly religious man would hesitate to take. (Hear, hear.) But to deal with this question satisfactorily was the duty of the responsible advisers of the Crown. If the Cabinet declined this duty, it might be undertaken by a Cabinet of that House—a select committee; and it was his intention to have moved that the bill be referred to a select committee, but he was told that it would not be consistent with form. When he was asked to consent to the re-introduction into the oath of the language Sir H. Cairns would restore, he avowed that he did not think the Established Church depended upon an oath.

Now can I take that view of the Established Church in Ireland which, to my astonishment, is sometimes taken even by its friends. It is sometimes spoken of as a weak institution, and one which is in great peril. I think it a strong institution. (Hear.) I have no doubt that from the causes which I have indicated the Established Church in both countries will flourish and will increase in influence and authority. But if you ask me what will be the consequence at this time, especially in the face of the motions which have been made in this House, of the associations which are still formed in Ireland, and of the feeling prevalent upon these matters throughout the country generally, of Parliament coming forward and agreeing to the omission of language which was certainly introduced, and formally introduced, into these documents with a view, if not of defending the Established Church, at least of showing that the Parliament of England was resolved to recognise and maintain its authority—if you ask me what will be the consequences of such action in England, I reply that I believe they will be important and disastrous, especially to Roman Catholics themselves. (Hear, hear.)

He should support the amendment for the restoration of the omitted words.

SIR GEORGE GREY said that the real question was—were their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects preferring a claim which could properly be preferred by members of that Church? (Hear, hear.) They urged a claim to seats in this House on terms of perfect equality with their Protestant fellow-subjects; and the question the House had to decide was whether good cause had been shown for granting those claims. He thought there had. He did not believe that if the words relating to the Irish Establishment were omitted a strong feeling would be created in the country injurious to the Roman Catholics. No one could doubt the attachment to Protestantism of the Protestant Dissenters, or suspect their want of sympathy with the doctrines of the Church of Rome, yet they had petitioned that this bill might pass. (Cheers.) Would anybody seriously contend that the retention of this oath was any bulwark or advantage to the Established Church or to the Protestant faith in this country? In his opinion the oath was unnecessary and ambiguous. He had never heard that any reproach attached to the Roman Catholic members for supporting Lord Derby in passing the Irish Church Temporalities Bill by large majorities. He believed the best thing they could do, under present circumstances, was to pass the bill as proposed by his right hon. friend, reserving for future consideration—for it must come on for future consideration—the question of a uniform oath.

MR. WHITESIDE supported the amendment in a speech which embraced a wide range of collateral topics.

MR. HENLEY observed that, by the omission of the words in question, Protestant and Roman Catholic members would not stand, as asserted, in an equal position; that, looking at recent attacks, it was not unreasonable to insist upon their restoration, and he would not give up the security they afforded to the Established Church, be it little or much. He heartily supported the amendment.

MR. HORSMAN replied to some remarks of MR. WHITESIDE. He denied that the Act of 1829 was a compact, as assumed by MR. WHITESIDE, and cited an express declaration of Sir Robert Peel, in introducing the bill, that the measure was the result of no compact.

MR. NEWDEGATE was received with cries of "Divide, divide," so loud and general as to render his first sentences entirely inaudible, and was throughout his address subjected to similar interruptions. He warned the representatives of the Dissenters that they were now asked to abolish the securities which in former times had been found necessary to prevent the establishment of absolutism, merely because they were told that it was to Roman Catholics painful to repudiate the doctrines enunciated by the Pope in his recent Encyclical, in which he asserted his right to guide the affairs of all States and nations. ("Divide! Divide!")

The Committee divided—

For the amendment	147
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Noes	166
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Majority	—19
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The clause was then agreed to, and the bill was ordered to be reported without amendment.

The House then went into committee upon the Record of Title (Ireland) Bill, the clauses of which underwent a long discussion.

POOR-LAW BOARD.

MR. VILLIERS, in moving the second reading of the Poor-law Board Continuance, &c., Bill, stated that the bill made no change in the constitution of the commission, which it proposed to continue for three years, and that in the amendments it made in the law there was nothing novel. He briefly explained the nature and effect of the amendments, the object of which was to give more effective operation to the administration of the Poor-law Board, in accordance with the recommendations of a committee of the House.

MR. HENLEY took exception to some of the alterations proposed by the bill, which gave, he said, additional arbitrary power to the Poor-law Board, and

exempted them from some checks upon the exercise of such power. He suggested that it would be better to bring in a short bill to continue the board for a year, and to leave the other matters for the consideration of another Parliament.

After some discussion, Mr. Packe moved to defer the second reading for three months, Mr. Villiers offering to withdraw certain clauses to which exception had been taken.

After further debate the amendment was negatived by 76 to 69 upon a division; the bill was then read the second time.

The Report of the Constabulary Force (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill was then considered, with the proposed amendments.

The remaining orders were proceeded with and disposed of, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes to three o'clock.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

ASHBURTON.—There will be three candidates. The sitting member, Mr. J. H. Astell (Conservative), seeks re-election, and will be opposed by Mr. R. Jardine (Liberal), of the firm of Jardine, Macmack, and Co., London, merchants. Captain T. E. Rogers, of Woyhouse, Ashburton, has also announced his intention of becoming a candidate, but on which side is not definitely understood.

AYLESBURY.—Messrs. Bernard and S. G. Smith, the Conservative members, seek re-election. There will be an opposition in the person of Mr. Nathaniel Meyer de Rothschild, whose family connections have also a great deal of interest in the landed property of the town and neighbourhood.

CAMBRIDGE.—An enthusiastic meeting of Liberal electors was held at the Guildhall on Friday evening. C. F. Foster, Esq., in the chair. Addresses were delivered by Mr. W. D. Christie, and Lieut.-Colonel Torrens, the Liberal candidates. Part of their addresses we have quoted elsewhere. Both gentlemen advocated advanced Liberal opinions, and a resolution in their favour was carried with acclamation. The Liberals in this borough are now cordially united. Mr. Torrens passed many years of his life in South Australia, where he held the highest offices of State, and took a prominent part in the Legislature. Among the measures initiated by him may be mentioned an act embodying what is known as the Torrens' system of conveying upon the principle of registration of title to land. This measure, first introduced in South Australia, was, upon the evidence of its beneficial working, adopted in each of the colonies in the Australian group in succession; and Lieutenant-Colonel Torrens received the thanks of Parliament in four colonies in recognition of these services. Lieutenant-Colonel Torrens observes, in a lengthy address which he has issued:—

I regard the colonial possessions of this country as conducing largely to her wealth, power, and standing among the nations of the earth. Our policy in dealing with these possessions should be such as to strengthen the feelings which at present unite us in heart's loyalty under a common Sovereign. At the same time it is but reasonable that the colonies should be called upon to contribute their quota to the external defence of the empire.

On Tuesday evening last a meeting of the Conservatives was held at the Lion, and addresses delivered by Messrs. Macaulay and Powell. Mr. Macaulay stated that Lord Palmerston was not a Radical Reformer—that the present Government came into office upon the promise of carrying a Reform Bill which was never fulfilled; that the questions of Church-rates, lowering the franchise, and vote by ballot, were mere fancies of certain gentlemen, but not asked for or required by the people. Regarding the admission of Dissenters to college fellowships, he considered the University a place of education for the Church of England; and that to admit Dissenters would destroy the great objects for which the colleges were founded. The religious foundation of the University was one of the Church of England, and not one of religious toleration. The hon. gentleman's remarks gave rise to sundry questions, and at times great uproar took place. Mr. Powell expressed similar views, and the meeting broke up amidst much confusion.

CHELTENHAM.—The Hon. Colonel Berkeley, M.P., will be opposed by Mr. Charles Schreiber, who is opposed to a reduction of the franchise and adopts Mr. Disraeli's idea of "lateral" extension. He is opposed to the unconditional abolition of Church-rates, and announces his intention to "resist all attacks on the integrity and independence of the Church of England, and on the Protestant principles so intimately connected with the liberties which we enjoy."

CIRENCESTER.—A close contest is expected. The Hon. Ashley Ponsonby now retires, and Mr. Julian Goldsmith, nephew of Sir F. Goldsmith, M.P. for Reading (who has lately purchased Rendcombe-park), offers himself in the Liberal interest. The Conservatives bring forward, in addition to their old member, Mr. Allen Bathurst, nephew of Earl Bathurst, the Hon. Ralph Dutton, M.P. for South Hants, and a brother of Lord Sherborne. Both candidates have issued addresses.

COVENTRY.—The immediate vacancy just created in the representation of this city by the death of Sir Joseph Paxton has produced extraordinary excitement among the electors. Every effort will be made to prevent the representation of this popular constituency from falling into the hands of the Tories. It has now been finally decided that Mr. T. Mason Jones is to contest the vacant seat in the Liberal

interest, against Mr. H. W. Eaton, the Tory candidate. Both of these gentlemen have just issued brief addresses announcing their intentions, and Mr. Jones has delivered a preliminary speech to the electors, in which, after paying an eloquent tribute to the memory of the late member, he declares his determination to sustain the double contest. His chance of success has greatly improved during the last few days; the Liberals of all shades, finding that the great body of the people are in his favour, having decided to unite in securing his return.

DERBYSHIRE (SOUTH).—The present members are Mr. Mundy (Conservative) and Mr. Evans (Liberal), and the heads of each party have expressed a wish that the county shall not be disturbed.

DEVONPORT.—Sir Arthur W. Buller has resigned his candidature for the coming election. The Liberal party are engaged in providing another candidate. Sir Arthur is to contest Liskeard, in the room of Mr. Bernal Osborne, who will be a candidate for Dunbarvan.

DUBLIN.—Sir E. Grogan, one of the sitting (Conservative) members for Dublin, retires, while Mr. Vance solicits re-election. Mr. B. L. Guinness seeks the votes of the electors as a Liberal-Conservative.

DURHAM SOUTH.—Mr. Henry Pease in an address announces his intention of retiring from the representation of this division at the close of the present Parliament, and hopes that the electors will return two Liberals. Mr. Joseph Whitwell Pease, son of the former and nephew of the present member for the Southern Division of Durham, is likely to stand in conjunction with Capt. Beaumont. The Liberals are getting up a strong requisition to Mr. Pease, and there seems every certainty that if he accepts it, of which there is no doubt, the two Liberals will be elected.

EDINBURGH.—Messrs. Duncan McLaren and Miller are having enthusiastic public meetings, and the election is creating much excitement. At the meeting on Friday at the Brighton-street Chapel, some 2,000 people were present, and hundreds had to go away. Mr. McLaren made a great point by explaining the bill he had drawn up for settling the Annuity-tax question which would speedily have got rid of the obnoxious impost, and which was put aside for the Lord Advocate's and Mr. Black's abortive scheme. The interests of the independent Liberal candidates are greatly promoted by the roupings for the tax which still continue. Dr. Begg, Moderator of the Free Church Assembly, has written a letter promising to vote for Messrs. McLaren and Miller, and advocating a change in the representation.

ELGIN BURHS.—Mr. Grant Duff, M.P., has intimated, though not officially, his intention to stand again for the Elgin district of burghs. No opposition whatever has been hinted at as yet.

EXETER.—Lord Courtenay (Conservative) and Mr. Coleridge, Q. C., will apparently be returned without a contest.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—A meeting of Liberal electors has invited Mr. A. Brogden and Mr. J. C. Marshman to contest this borough in opposition to Sir E. H. K. Lacon and Mr. J. Goodson. Mr. Brogden is a gentleman largely connected with the iron trade of Lancashire and South Wales. Mr. Marshman is brother-in-law of the late Sir H. Havelock, and is well known as a writer and speaker on Indian topics.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—As yet no intimation has been made that Mr. John Remington Mills and Mr. Martin Tucker Smith will not be allowed to resume their seats in the next Parliament without opposition. Mr. Mills' seat is said to be secure.

KNARESBOROUGH.—Mr. L. Holden has issued his address, and an active canvass is being made on his behalf. The present Conservative members, Mr. Wood and Mr. Collins, have both issued their addresses. There is at present every probability of a spirited contest. Mr. Holden is a Wesleyan.

LEICESTER.—The Liberals are united in favour of Mr. P. A. Taylor (the sitting member) and Mr. Harris, who formerly represented the borough. There is no doubt that Mr. Heygate, the Conservative sitting member, will be dismissed.

MANCHESTER.—No formal reply has, it is believed, been received from Mr. Milner Gibson to the invitation of the Liberal committee, but it is understood that the right hon. gentleman will stand for Manchester if his constituents at Ashton-under-Lyne will consent.

MERIONETHSHIRE.—Mr. W. W. Wynne, the present member, does not intend to offer himself for re-election; but his son, Mr. W. R. M. Wynne, has signified his intention of coming forward in his father's stead. There being many Dissenters, who are also freeholders in Merionethshire, it is more than likely that they will bring out a candidate of more Liberal principles.

NORFOLK WEST.—There is now every prospect of a severe contest in this constituency. Both parties have rallied their forces, the Conservatives in support of Mr. G. W. P. Bentinck, M.P., and the Hon. T. de Grey, and the Liberals on behalf of Mr. Brampton Gordon, M.P., and Sir Willoughby Jones. Mr. Bentinck's address is vague and brief. He confines himself to an expression of his continued determination to maintain the rights of the Protestant Church and to uphold Constitutional Government.

NORWICH.—On Friday evening Mr. E. Warner, M.P., met the advanced Liberal portion of his constituents. Mr. Warner answered the questions addressed to him to the satisfaction of the meeting, which adopted a vote of confidence in him. The Liberal party of Norwich may thus be again regarded as united in support of the sitting members, Mr. Warner and Sir W. Russell.

NOTTINGHAM.—It is stated that all the publicans of the town, some 300 in number, are on the side of Sir Robert Clifton, who is also supported by a portion of the Conservatives, the rest being ashamed of him, and daily falling away. In fact, the contest has assumed a disagreeable personal aspect, but it is believed that, in spite of all degrading expedients, Messrs. Paget and Morley will be returned.

OXFORD COUNTY.—It is said that Sir Henry Dashwood declines to contest the county again, and that Lord Alfred Spencer Churchill would willingly join with another Liberal who is acceptable to the electors and contest the county, as he believes the prospect of success is good, and is equally so for two as for one Liberal. No other candidate is at present named as likely to come forward.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—A correspondent of the *Guardian* states as a fact that the Archbishop of Canterbury has promised his vote for Mr. Gladstone for the University.

SALISBURY.—The three candidates for the representation of this city—Mr. M. H. Marsh and Mr. E. Hamilton (Liberals), and Mr. John Chapman (Conservative)—have now commenced an active canvass of the electors, and public meetings have been held at which the two latter expounded at length their political views. Mr. Chapman addressed the electors on Wednesday evening, and expressed himself in favour of an extension, but not a lowering, of the franchise. He would also support the abolition of Church-rates if any plan can be devised for effecting it without injury to the rights of the Church.

SHEFFIELD.—Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Hadfield have addressed their constituents at Sheffield, in Paradise-square. There were some ten thousand persons present. Mr. Roebuck's speech was principally taken up with answers to charges which have been made against him as to his vote on the Permissive Bill, and his policy in regard to the American question. He characterised the Permissive Bill as an attempt to deal with a question which did not belong to legislation, and as an unequal measure calculated to sow dissension, disquiet, and misery throughout the land. In regard to the American question, he contended that the recognition of the South by England and France would have brought about an event necessary for the safety of Europe, viz., the splitting in two of an arrogant and overbearing Republic. A vote of confidence in both of the hon. gentlemen was carried by an overwhelming majority.

SHREWSBURY.—Mr. H. Robertson having announced his intention not again to claim the suffrages of the electors, Mr. William J. Clements, a surgeon, has offered himself as a candidate. He appeals to his professional brethren for assistance in electing one of themselves. The army and navy, the law and the Church, are well represented in Parliament, but the medical profession has only one advocate in the present House of Commons. If some medical men had been in Parliament, they would not have seen such unsatisfactory and useless legislation on that very important subject, the public health. He will advocate those principles of civil and religious liberty and commercial freedom which have secured for the people their present great happiness and prosperity. He will give Lord Palmerston's Administration a cordial but independent support. Mr. Clements is likely to be returned without opposition, in conjunction with Mr. Tomline, the sitting Liberal member.

SHROPSHIRE, NORTH.—Lord Albert Leveson Gower has issued an address to the Liberal electors, saying that if returned he will heartily support the Ministry of Lord Palmerston. The malt-tax, he is aware, is felt by many connected with the cultivation of land as injurious to them, and he thinks that their views and wishes are entitled to consideration. The present law of Church-rates is unsatisfactory, and an undoubted grievance to many conscientious men; but in any legislation on this subject he considers that provision should be made for the maintenance of the fabric of our Church.

SOUTH ESSEX.—Mr. H. J. Selwin (Conservative) is expected to be returned unopposed, together with Mr. R. B. Wingfield Baker (Liberal). Mr. Selwin has issued his address to the constituency, in which he denounces the malt-tax, and states that he had hoped to see the Government bring forward some solution of the much vexed question of Church-rates.

STOCKPORT.—The Conservatives have at length determined to contest the representation of this borough at the forthcoming election, and are bringing out as their candidate Mr. E. Tipping, of Brasted Park, Kent. The sitting members are Mr. J. B. Smith and Mr. E. W. Watkin.

STROUD.—Both the sitting members, Messrs. Scrope and Horsman, will offer themselves for re-election. Mr. Horsman has just issued his address.

TEWKESBURY.—Several candidates are mentioned, but none are yet before the electors, and by far the greatest probability is that the two present members will be sent back without a contest. The registration stands highly favourable for the return of two Tories. The game is entirely in their hands, but the most influential of the Tory party are disinclined to reject Mr. Martin, the Whig member, who has signified his intention to stand the contest under any circumstances should there be one.

WHITBY.—A keen Parliamentary contest is promised at Whitby. Mr. Thompson, the present Liberal member, and Mr. George Hudson, who for the first time for many years has ventured to seek the suffrages of a Parliamentary constituency, have just visited the town, and addressed meetings of their friends. Both gentlemen are actively canvassing, and the friends of both express some confidence of ultimate success. It is remarked, however, that the leading Conservatives do not show any enthusiasm.

siasm on behalf of Mr. Hudson, and we are of opinion they would best serve the interest of the borough by again sending him into retirement.

WEST SURREY.—It appears to be uncertain at present whether the present members—Mr. J. L. Briscoe (Liberal), and Mr. G. Cubitt (Conservative)—will be returned unopposed. Another Conservative candidate has been spoken of. The names of Mr. H. L. Long and Captain Egerton, respectively, have also been mentioned as likely to contest the division in the Liberal interest. Mr. Cubitt's seat is considered by no means safe, as in addition to his unpopularity, even the large majority obtained among his own party by Mr. Briscoe over his Conservative opponents at the last general election, and a considerable increase of Liberal votes on the register since that period, render the return of a second Liberal candidate highly probable.

Foreign and Colonial.

AMERICA.

Dates from New York extend to June 3rd.

General Canby has reported to the War Department that on the 26th ult. General Kirby Smith surrendered all the Confederate military and naval forces and war material in the trans-Mississippi department. On the receipt of this intelligence President Johnson ordered the immediate release of all the prisoners who have been sentenced by military tribunals to imprisonment during the war.

The Government, notwithstanding the surrender of General Kirby Smith, has despatched an extensive military and naval expedition, fitted out at Fortress Monroe, to Texas.

Direct telegraphic communication with New Orleans, after three years' interruption by the war, has been restored. Despatches report the arrival there of General Sheridan and staff; also that the Confederate General Hood has offered to surrender himself to General Davidson at Natchez.

On the 29th the President issued a proclamation of amnesty and restoration to the rights of property, except in slaves and cases wherein proceedings under the Constitution laws have been instituted, to all persons who have directly or indirectly participated in the rebellion, and who will subscribe to the oath to support the Constitution, the Union, and all emancipation laws and proclamations, excepting those included in fourteen clauses of exceptions:—All civil, diplomatic, judicial, and State officers, soldiers above the rank of colonels, sailors above the rank of lieutenants, prisoners of war, political prisoners, raiders from foreign territories, those implicated in the ill-treatment of Federal prisoners, members of the Federal Congress of 1861 who have aided rebellion, any persons from the loyal States, or those in the seceded States owning property to the value of 20,000 dols. who have voluntarily aided the rebellion, and those who having once taken Mr. Lincoln's amnesty oath of 1863 have disregarded its obligations. The proclamation concludes with notice that to those of the excepted classes who shall make special application to the President for pardon such clemency will be extended as may be consistent with the facts of the case and the dignity and peace of the United States.

President Johnson has also issued a proclamation appointing William W. Holden provisional Governor of North Carolina, with power to call an election by the loyal people who shall have taken the new amnesty oaths to appoint delegates to revise the State constitution and restore the State to the Union under such a form of local Government as will entitle its people to protection by the United States against invasion, insurrection, and domestic violence. The military in the State are ordered to assist Governor Holden in carrying out the provisions of the proclamation, and the different departments of the Federal Government are directed to take possession of the public property, and to forthwith put in force their respective laws applicable to the geographical limits of the State.

Messrs. Wendell Phillips and Amasa J. Parker, in speeches to the Anti-Slavery Convention in Boston, denounced President Johnson's plan for the restoration of North Carolina to the Union, and decided that construction without negro suffrage would be a practical surrender to the Confederacy and a gross fraud upon the people of the North.

New Orleans despatches report that on the 24th, while the ammunition was being removed from the Confederate magazine in Mobile, which was situated in the business centre of the city, an explosion occurred which demolished the magazine, prostrated eight squares of buildings, and instantly sank two steamers lying at the pier in the vicinity. Upwards of 300 persons were killed outright, and many hundreds of others injured by the falling buildings. The value of the property destroyed is variously estimated at from 3,000,000 dols. to 8,000,000 dols. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

In consequence of the frequent quarrels and disturbances between intoxicated officers and soldiers in Washington, General Grant has prohibited all sales of liquors in the city while the armies remain in its vicinity.

Southern papers report that the people were disposed to accept the new order of things, and to stand by the Government to re-establish order and industry.

An abstract of Sherman's report to Grant had been published, wherein he strongly animadverts upon the action of Messrs. Halleck and Stanton towards him.

Telegraphic communication between York, Mobile, Orleans, and Memphis was restored.

Thomas had superseded Halleck, who was transferred to the Pacific department.

It is reported positively that Stanton will shortly retire from the Cabinet.

The scheme for the liquidation of the national debt by voluntary subscription was being followed up.

Jefferson Davis had arrived in Washington to be arraigned. He was confined in the Capitol Prison, and was to be tried by the District Supreme Court, under the presidency of Judge Carter. The statement that he was manacled had neither been officially nor semi-officially denied.

It was reported that President Johnson had given permission to Charles O'Connor to defend Mr. Davis.

The *New York Tribune* states that numerous Confederate officers had been summoned by the District Court to testify against General Lee and other leaders on a charge of treason.

Secretary Mallory and Mr. Howell Cobb had been arrested. General Longstreet had received permission from President Johnson to visit Washington on personal business.

During the conspiracy trial Louis Bates testified that at his house in Charlotte on April 19 Breckinridge told Davis that he regretted Mr. Lincoln's assassination, and that the event was unfortunate for the Southern people. Davis was said to have replied that if it were to be done at all, it were better that it were well done, and if the same were done to Johnson, the beast, and Stanton, the job would then be complete. Other witnesses testified that Thomson, Clay, and Halcomb were implicated in the shipment of infected clothing. Numerous witnesses had been examined with the view of impairing the evidence for the prosecution. The prisoner Payne's counsel had entered the plea of insanity for his client.

A party of Mexican emigrants connected with the barque *Bronte* had been arrested at San Francisco, charged with conspiring to seize the Peruvian steamer *Colon*, and put her to sea as a Mexican privateer. The plan contemplated the seizure of a French transport. The agent of Juarez, who advanced money to the leaders of the conspiracy, finding the money likely to be misappropriated, informed against them. The leaders stated that the seizure of the *Colon* was understood between the Mexican and Peruvian authorities.

The *World* states that Admiral Goldsborough's fleet of thirty to sixty vessels, comprising the iron-sides and two double-turreted monitors, was to leave for the Mediterranean in the beginning of July. Admiral Gordon's fleet had arrived at Charleston en route for the Brazilian waters.

The Washington correspondent of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* says letters had been received from some of the most influential bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church at the South, conveying the intimation that at the next General (triennial) Convention, in September next, they anticipate no difficulty in the way of a fraternal reunion with their brethren of the Northern dioceses.

The Washington agent of the Associated Press announces that the Government had under consideration the question of colonising all the Indian tribes between Minnesota and Iowa and the Rocky Mountains on a reservation somewhere on the northern border of Montana and Wakota, with the British possessions adjoining for an unlimited hunting-ground.

The Military Commission which tried Senator Harris, of Maryland, had declared him "Guilty," and sentenced him to three years' imprisonment and forfeiture of all political rights. President Johnson had approved the finding, but remitted the sentence.

In the Senate of the Tennessee Legislature a bill had been passed defining the qualifications of a voter. He must be a white male citizen, twenty-one years of age. It excluded from free suffrage all over twenty-one who aided the rebellion.

The 1st of June, appointed by President Johnson for national mourning for the death of President Lincoln, was observed throughout the North by general suspension of business and the exercise of religious services.

Secretary Seward had rescinded the order requiring persons from foreign countries entering the United States by sea to be provided with passports.

Governor Pierpont had transferred the seat of the Loyal Government of Virginia from Alexandria to Richmond.

Gold, 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium.

FRANCE.

Having finished his Algerian tour, the Emperor on Saturday arrived at Paris. He was heartily welcomed, and many of the inhabitants illuminated their residences in honour of his Majesty's return.

A decree has been issued, signed by the *Express*, according to which all warnings given to the journals in Paris and the departments are considered null and void.

The resignation of Prince Napoleon of the Vice-Presidency of the Privy Council and the Presidency of the Exhibition Commission has been accepted by the Emperor.

The Government on Wednesday suffered the most important parliamentary check that it has ever experienced. The section of the budget which proposed a credit of six millions towards building a new post-office on the site of the Church of the Assumption in the Rue Luxembourg, was rejected by a large majority, in spite of a most urgent appeal on behalf of the project made by the Government orator, M. Forcade de la Roquette.

In the Corps Législatif, on Saturday, M. Bartholoni made a speech defending the Mexican expedition and loan. M. Picard spoke against both. M. Rouher defended the morality of the Mexican loan, and de-

clared its validity. He explained the measures adopted by the various banking establishments which have participated in the operation. He stated that all the intelligence received by the Government from Mexico inspired it with full security and confidence relative to the Empire. The assassination of Mr. Lincoln had, he said, caused considerable excitement in the north-east provinces, but the movement was promptly repressed. The Government of the United States contributed to this end by hastening to declare their formal intention of making their neutrality respected. M. Rouher concluded by appealing to the Opposition to maturely weigh their words uttered in the Chamber, since unmerited wrong might be done to Mexico. M. Jules Favre, who then addressed the House, adverted to the act imputed to General Castagny, who was said to have burnt a town of 4,000 inhabitants. The motion under debate was then adopted by 252 against 13 votes.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys has issued instructions similar to those contained in Earl Russell's letter relative to the withdrawal of protection to Confederate vessels of war.

Transports are to proceed to Algeria, and return with 30,000 soldiers, who have been ordered home.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor has returned to Vienna from Pesth. His Majesty, in an autograph letter of thanks to Count von Palfy, Governor of Hungary, states that he has been greatly moved by the sincere proofs of affection afforded him upon all sides. In conclusion, the Emperor expresses the hope of soon returning to Pesth to complete the pleasing task which all have at heart.

The Emperor has signed a decree ordering the suppression of military tribunals for the trial of offences committed by civilians in Hungary.

PRUSSIA.

In the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies on the 8th, Herr Forckenbeck, before the order of the day was taken up, called the attention of the House to the rumours current of an impending duel between Herr von Bismarck and Deputy Virchow, arising out of offensive expressions used by the latter during a recent debate. Herr Forckenbeck observed that a duel on account of expressions used in Parliament could not and must not take place. He called upon the President to do his duty. General Von Roon, Minister of War, said that when imputations were made upon any man's honour, no power, not even the highest in the country, was competent to declare satisfaction had been given. The matter had not been settled by the remarks of the President. If Deputy Virchow declined to withdraw his hastily uttered exhortations, the course to be adopted must be left in Herr von Bismarck's hands. After a vehement debate, in which speakers of all parties shared, President Grabow said that as no motion was before the House no resolution could be passed, and he should therefore consider the matter as settled. He trusted that as a member of Parliament Deputy Virchow would only do what he could justify according to the law and the constitution. Upon the House passing to the order of the day, all the proposals of the committee on military reorganisation were adopted, while the purely Conservative propositions made by the Government were rejected.

On the 9th, the debate on the Naval Budget was continued. Herr Virchow proposed an amendment, according to which the sum asked for the works in the Bay of Jaffa should be increased to 1,000,000 thalers. He also proposed that 750,000 thalers should be voted for the building of an iron-clad frigate, and 300,000 thalers for cast-steel guns, these amounts forming the first year's instalments of the whole credit to be granted for the increase of the Prussian navy. Herr von Forckenbeck, Twesten, and Gneist, considered these grants requisite, since the regular budget provided the means, and the necessity of the outlay was uncontested. Herr Waldeck and Harkort spoke against the amendment. The Minister of Finance stated that the House having refused to grant large sums to be employed in the manner proposed by the Government, the latter now regretted that it was unable to concur in the proposed changes. The amendment was then put to the vote, and adopted by a large majority. The Naval Budget was finally passed in the form proposed by the committee.

ITALY.

Letters from Rome to the 7th inst. state that a detachment of French troops stationed at Cepriano have repulsed some brigands upon Neapolitan territory.

The Pope granted an audience to Signor Vegezzl the day after his arrival at Rome.

The *Nazione* of Florence publishes some details of the negotiations with the Papal Court. The Pope, it is stated, will appoint bishops to the vacant sees, but they will be presented by King Victor Emmanuel, and will make a declaration acknowledging him as their Sovereign and recognising the kingdom of Italy. The Pope has consented to the suppression of some bishoprics, and the Italian Government will have the right to prevent the return of these prelates whose presence it may consider prejudicial to public safety. The *Nazione* believes these engagements will be verbal, and that no convention will be signed either by Rome or Italy with the other Catholic Powers.

The Pope, it is stated, has forwarded to Paris funds for the payment of the debt due from provinces formerly subject to his Holiness, but now under the rule of Victor Emmanuel.

MEXICO.

From Mexico the news continues favourable to the Imperial cause. The Juaristas are everywhere suffering defeat, and gradually retire before the forces of the Emperor. They have retired discomfited from Matamoras. The war, we may therefore hope, will not last much longer. In several States the inhabitants are organising for the defence of their persons and property.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The *Moniteur* announces that Rosa Bonheur has been named Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

An army of French cooks has just left Paris for New York.—*American Paper*.

The friends of General Grant in Philadelphia have presented him with a new house completely furnished.

Telegrams from Bombay announce the failure of a native banker, with liabilities amounting to about fifty lacs, or 500,000L. He is stated to have forty branch establishments.

THE KING OF DAHOMEY.—Intelligence has been received in Madrid that the King of Dahomey, who had been compelled to fly from his capital, subsequently returned. He was preparing to take retaliatory measures, and had redoubled his cruelties.

The controversy between the Buddhists and Christians in Ceylon continues to excite great interest throughout the colony. It is now stated that Buddhist schools are to be commenced, to save the children of Buddhists from being spoiled in Christian schools.

The missionaries in Canton have established a weekly paper for the people in Chinese. It is called the *Chinese and Foreign Weekly Newspaper*. The *Futai* of Shanghai pays an American missionary 500L a-year to teach several Chinese youths English, and an English school has been opened for the same purpose in Pekin, at the cost of the Imperial authorities.

Several members of the French Opposition are about to send an address to President Johnson, reminding him that the first act of the French Republic of 1848 was to abolish capital punishment for political offences, and suggesting the application of this principle at the present juncture by the American Government.

The Grand Prix de Paris for 100,000L. and an object of art presented by the Emperor, was won easily at the Paris races on Sunday, by Gladateur, the winner of the Derby. The Emperor was present at the races, and was warmly cheered by the immense crowd assembled. His Majesty congratulated Count Lagrange upon the success of his horse.

MR. EDWIN JAMES.—A correspondent of a contemporary writing from New York affirms that Mr. Edwin James, ex-M.P. for Marylebone, has been arrested in that city on a charge of conspiring to defraud a young Irish lawyer, who recently arrived there, of 1,400 dollars. The last eventful scene in the career of the ex-Q.C. and M.P., is his examination before an American judge, by whom he has been remanded.

THE ACCOUNTS ABOUT THE GROWING CROPS ABROAD, so far as an estimate can be formed, are not uniformly favourable. In France, in some places the crops are good, in others indifferent. The accounts from Prussia respecting the wheat and rye crops are not satisfactory. In Russia, especially the south, in the Danubian Principalities, and some parts of Hungary, a protracted drought, accompanied by excessive heat, is said to have jeopardised the cereal crop, and should rain be much longer delayed a large portion of the crop will be inevitably lost. In North America the cereal crops are stated to be very luxuriant, and vegetation about a fortnight in advance of ordinary seasons.

THE NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.—Mr. Lafayette S. Foster, as President *pro tempore* of the Senate by the act of Congress, is *de facto* Vice-President of the United States. He was born in Franklin, New London county, Connecticut, November 22, 1806. He is a lineal descendant of the redoubtable Miles Standish, who led the ancient Puritans in the early wars of New England. As a senator, Mr. Foster was never celebrated for the high attainments of eloquence, but as a committee-man and in the details of the duties of his office was efficient and energetic.

ENGLAND AND ROME.—An amusing story is told in diplomatic circles in Paris of an instance of singular absence of mind on the part of the Duke de Persigny during his late visit to Rome. Mr. Odo Russell, the agent of the British Government at Rome, having been presented to the Duke, the latter exclaimed, "Enchanted to see you! You are the English ambassador, I presume?" "No, M. le Duc," was the reply. "Ah! then you are the chargé d'affaires?" "Pardon me, M. le Duc; England has no official representative at Rome." "Since when?" Since more than three centuries," returned Mr. Russell to the puzzled Duke, who at last perceived his mistake.

THE AMERICANS AND THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.—At a special meeting of the Board of Trade of Detroit, Michigan, held on the 23rd ult., the following resolutions were unanimously passed amid the greatest enthusiasm: "Whereas the spontaneous, warm, and generous sympathy of the people of Canada and of Great Britain, on the occasion of our late national affliction, is susceptible of only one interpretation; and whereas, we accept it as a seeming providence that while the blood of our lamented President should virtually obliterate partisan landmarks at home it should also be the means of cementing our friendship with those with whom every sentiment of Christian civilisation prompts the promotion of peace and good will; therefore resolved, that the colours of the association be displayed throughout the entire day to-

morrow, May 24th, in honour of the birthday of her Majesty Queen Victoria; and that we sincerely rejoice that while making this manifestation as a mark of friendship, comity, and good-will, we can also do honour to one whose life has illustrated those truly noble qualities which not only entitle her to the generous homage of Britons, but to the respect of mankind in every land where true chivalry is found or virtue honoured. Resolved, that we respectfully recommend that the flags throughout the city be displayed in honour of the day."

THE MORMONS.—A split among the quarrelsome Mormons is not a thing so unusual as to excite special remark; but a recent occurrence of the kind seems to be worthy of note. Joseph Smith, the son of the original Joseph, and a recognised high leader in the polygamous community, has become a convert to monogamy, and makes a dead set against the great Brigham Young. Joseph quotes his father and the Book of Mormon to show that both inculcate the doctrine that one wife—at a time—and no concubines, is the teaching of the recognised heads of the church. Joseph also makes a point rather indirectly against the loyalty of Brigham Young. That is a weak point, we think, with Brigham; but now that the rebellion is over, the matter is of little consequence.—*New York Times*.

RAILWAY FACILITIES IN INDIA.—The following extract from a private letter shows how rapidly railway communication is being extended in India:—"Between Calcutta and Mooltan I was able to travel about 360 miles more by railway than last year, saving about 15L. in money, and two days in time. Exclusive of stoppages, the trains in India usually go about twenty-five miles an hour. You can leave Calcutta at nine in the evening, and reach Benares, 540 miles off, the following night at half-past ten. The fare, second class, is about 2L. 10s. There are sleeping carriages for first-class passengers, fare about 5L. With the exception of the steam ferry across the Jumna at Allahabad, you can travel by rail right through from Calcutta to Delhi, a distance of 1,021 miles, by rail. In about five years hence the line will be open as far as Mooltan, about 1,500 miles, and one will be able to travel right through from Calcutta to Negapatam *vid* Bombay, in round numbers about 2,500 miles."

PRESIDENT JOHNSON commences his Presidential career with an intimation that he declines to receive any presents. To some wealthy citizens who sent him a splendid carriage and a "span of horses" he writes:—

While I fully appreciate the purity of your motives in thus tendering to me such substantial evidence of your regard and esteem, I am compelled, solely from the convictions of duty I have ever held in reference to the acceptance of presents by those occupying high official positions, to decline the offerings of kind and loyal friends. The retention of the parchment conveying your sentiments, and the autographs of those who were pleased to unite in this manifestation of regard, is a favour I would ask; and I assure you, gentlemen, I shall regard it as one of the highest marks of respect from any portion of my fellow-citizens. Trusting that I shall continue to merit your confidence and esteem in the discharge of the high and important duties upon which I have but just entered, and with the best wishes for your health, &c., individually,—I am, gentlemen, yours truly, ANDREW JOHNSON.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

On Wednesday last, her Majesty, accompanied by the Princesses Helena, Louise, and Beatrice, drove from Balmoral *vid* Invercauld House and Allangquoich to the Falls of Quoich.

Her Majesty and the youthful members of the royal family with the Queen at Balmoral will leave the Highlands for Windsor Castle to-morrow.

The Prince was present yesterday at Ascot races. His Royal Highness held a *levée* on Wednesday last at St. James's Palace, on behalf of the Queen, and on Friday an investiture of the Order of the Bath at St. James's Palace. Several generals and admirals were invested with the Order. In the evening the Prince honoured the Duchess of Wellington, Mistress of the Robes, by his presence at a ball given by her Grace at Apsley-house.

Prince Alfred has already brought his new and beautifully-built four-oared gig, the Queen Victoria, into use upon the Rhine at Bonn.

The recovery of the Princess of Wales has so far advanced that the bulletins have been discontinued. The infant Prince is in excellent health.

We have reason to believe that it is the intention of the Queen to hold another Court at Buckingham Palace before the close of the season.—*Post*.

The Prince of Wales was entertained at a banquet by the Fishmongers' Company on Saturday night. The dinner was entirely a complimentary one; but in the course of it Lord Clarence Paget stated that it had been agreed, at the suggestion of the French Emperor, that the English iron-clad fleet should visit the coast of France, and the French fleet the coast of England, and that the two fleets would be in conjunction off Plymouth about the middle of next month.

Prince Arthur, accompanied by the Duke of Argyll, General Grey, and Major Livingston, last week paid a visit to the Vale of Alford, with the view of trying the Don Fishings, those in the Dee being as yet rather poor, but they had little sport.

The *Press* of Saturday says:—"We very much regret to learn that, owing to increasing infirmities and failing health, the Premier will retire from public life as soon as the pending appeal to the country is concluded. His colleagues, anxious to avail themselves of the popularity attached to his name, are exerting them-

selves to bring the session to a close as speedily as possible. We have reason to believe that in consequence of Lord Palmerston's contemplated retirement, negotiations have been carried on by some of the leaders of the Liberal party, and an attempt will be made to form a Ministry with Earl Russell as Premier and Mr. Gladstone as leader of the House of Commons. The programme will be a new Reform Bill, and the spoilation of the Irish Church."

Gleanings.

A young man has died of hydrocephalus at Westminster Hospital. He was bitten nine weeks since.

In the window of a house at Greenwich is the following extraordinary announcement:—"Tea made with shrimps at nine pence a head."

The farmers of the neighbourhood of Exmouth will, it is stated, sustain heavy losses this year by the almost total failure of the apple crop.

The *Kerry Post* says that Mr. Cyrus Field has arrived at Valentia, to make preparations for the laying of the Atlantic telegraph.

A considerable number of volunteer artillerymen have become deaf owing to the firing of heavy guns. The *New York Times* bitterly complains of the high rents now ruling in New York.

An institution for the reception of females addicted to intemperance is being provided in connection with the House of Refuge for the Destitute in Edinburgh. Compulsory detention is repudiated; the inmates are to be at liberty to leave whenever they are so disposed.

On Wednesday night, Mr. Robert Plummer, of Headingley, Leeds, formerly a stuff merchant, and an active Wesleyan, hanged himself while of unsound mind, in consequence of having been ruined by the failure of the Leeds Banking Company.

The late Dr. Risk, of Daisserf, did not satisfy, by his preaching, the Calvinistic portion of his flock. "Why, sir," said they, "we think you dinna tell us enough about renouncing our ain righteousness!" Why, vociferated the astonished Doctor, "I never saw you had any to renounce!"

The term "Feenians" is an Irish translation of the word "Phoenicians," the earliest colonists of Ireland. Not at all! The word is from the French "fini," being the battle-cry of the Irish brigade, under Charlemagne, at the terrible encounter with Dathys at the foot of the Alps.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

REPARTER.—An elderly gentleman, travelling in a stage-coach, was amused by the constant fire of words kept up between two ladies. One of them at last kindly inquired if their conversation did not make his head ache, when he answered, with a great deal of naïveté, "No, ma'am, I have been married twenty-eight years."

THE SHOP IN COURT.—"One more question, Mr. Parks," said a counsel to a witness, who happened to be a tailor. "You have known the defendant a long time; what are his habits—loose or otherwise?" "The one he's got on now I think is rather tight under the arms, and too short-waisted for the fashion," replied Parks. "Stand down," said the counsel.

ONLY SIXPENCE.—The *Athenaeum* states that, at certain "photographic establishments" at Chelsea, the appetites as well as the vanity of the public are stimulated by the offer of an "eel-pie and your likeness for sixpence." Others offer "your likeness" and a cup of coffee for the same money. At a third house it is "your likeness" and a cigar for sixpence."

EDITORS IN AUSTRIA.—It must be a pleasant thing to be a newspaper editor in Austria. Apart from the peril of being continually pulled up for insulting the Government, it appears that in the semi-barbarous districts the police assume the right of flogging them. The magistrate of E-segg issued an order prohibiting the inhabitants from buying their meat of a butcher across the Drave, who sold it a penny a pound cheaper than the town butcher. The editor of the local paper wrote a sharp comment upon the order, for which he was summoned before the town captain, who told him that if he ever dared write against the magistrate again he would receive twelve lashes.

WEIGHING THE WEIGHTS.—A South African paper, the *Graaff-Reinet Herald*, states that a wool-farmer who came into town lately to sell his wool, having heard that there had been no assizing of weights for four years, went into a store and brought up the subject of weighing people. Stepping on the platform scale, he said, "I wonder what I weigh now?" His weight was quickly read off; a few similar trials were made, and away he went to the next store, and so on to others. When he came back he knew who had the lightest weights, and there he went with his wool.

MR. LINCOLN'S LAST STATE PAPER.—The *New York* correspondent of the *Spectator* states the reply given to Sir Frederick Bruce, when he recently presented his credentials at Washington, was not Mr. Johnson's but Mr. Lincoln's. It was the late President's last official work. He did not often write out his speeches, but on this occasion, having received a memorandum of what Sir Frederick Bruce would say, he wrote out a reply upon the afternoon of the day of his assassination, and it was found in his portfolio. Mr. Johnson having wisely determined to continue Mr. Lincoln's foreign policy, adopted this expression of it in regard to Great Britain. He did not, however, assume the authorship of the reply. It was not made by him in person, but was read by a secretary from Mr. Lincoln's manuscript.

Literature.

VANCOUVER ISLAND. *

We are not sanguine of success in gaining attention, either to what we have ourselves to say respecting Vancouver Island, or to Mr. Macfie's interesting volume. Perhaps one in a thousand of the inhabitants of Great Britain is aware that the island of Vancouver is advantageously situated, at about the same latitude as Great Britain itself, on the western coast of North America; rather more than that number may know that there is something like a quarrel connected with it, still pending between the Government of this country and that of the United States; while only an infinitesimal proportion of these have any just conception of the matter in dispute. Mr. Macfie is a Congregational minister, who has resided for five years at Victoria; and his work embraces the whole field of Vancouver and Columbian affairs, containing full information respecting the physical characteristics, the mineral wealth, the commercial facilities, and the moral and religious aspects of the colony.

The increased importance of Vancouver Island dates from the discovery of gold there, and in the adjacent mainland, in 1858. The "quiet hamlet" of Victoria—the only place of importance—with its population of "two or three hundred inhabitants," was presently flooded with some 20,000 immigrants, all impelled by the one absorbing passion. "Individuals of every trade and profession in San Francisco and several parts of Oregon, urged by the insatiable *auri sacra fames*, threw up their employments, in many cases sold their property at an immense sacrifice, and repaired to the new *Dorado*." Land immediately rose to many times its value; hundreds of shops, stores, and shanties sprang up; while the surveyor's office was besieged, often before four o'clock in the morning, by the multitude eager to buy town property. For though a large number of the new settlers (including of course the more adventurous spirits) proceeded with all possible expedition to the gold districts—especially those situated on the river Fraser, which empties itself into the sea near the southern end of Vancouver—a still larger proportion remained in Victoria, availing themselves of the extraordinary opportunities presented for money-making, in the place which from its geographical position and other advantages was the natural entrepôt for the district. During the years 1858—1864, large quantities of gold have been exported from Victoria. Mr. Macfie estimates the total up to the end of 1863 at about 3,000,000£., an amount small, it is true, if compared with the enormous gross yields of California and Australia, but, when the relative numbers of miners are taken into consideration, bearing "a most favourable comparison" even with those most auriferous of regions. An interesting sketch is given of the difficulties presented to the first gold-finders in Columbia; some of whom made their way up the bed of the Fraser, while others struck across the country through dense forests. We select the following paragraph, as telling vividly the tale of Gold's devotees and martyrs:—

"A new route was proposed *vid* Douglas, at the head of Harrison Lake and Lilloet, that should avoid the dangers and obstructions of the river trial. But this did not at first mend matters; for the intended road lay through a rugged and densely wooded country, and much time and money required to be consumed before it could be rendered practicable. Before the line for the Lilloet route was generally known, parties of intrepid miners, anxious to be the first to reap its benefits, tried to force their way through all the difficulties opposed to them. The misery and fatigue endured by them were indescribable. They crept through underwood and thicket for many miles, sometimes on hands and knees, with a bag of flour on the back of each; alternately under and over fallen trees, scrambling up precipices, or sliding down over masses of sharp projecting rock, or wading up to the waist through bogs and swamps. Every day added to their exhaustion; and, worn out with privation and sufferings, one knot of adventurers after another became smaller and smaller, some lagging behind to rest, or turning back in despair. The only thought seemed to be to reach the river before provisions should give out. One large party was reduced to three, and when they came to an Indian camp where salmon was to be had one of these hardy fellows made up his mind to return." —P. 70.

Though the population of Victoria has subsided since the inundation referred to, the colony has probably been a gainer in the one way as much as the other. It has obtained a larger population of settled inhabitants, and been enabled to develop its social and civil institutions. Our author estimates the population at about 5,500; among whom are to be found representa-

tives of almost every trade and profession. Glancing over the list of these, it strikes us as rather strange, that in a city with some twenty joint-stock companies, a fair number of barristers, estate agents, commission agents, &c., the medical profession should be represented by one dentist! We observe, however, that there are as many as nine chemists and druggists; who may some of them, it is to be hoped, be qualified to practise medicine and surgery.

We are not counselling any of our readers who may be contemplating emigration, to select Vancouver Island as their home. Its distance from us—at present practically greater than even that which severs us from the antipodes—is too formidable an obstacle to render its colonisation from these islands, to any considerable extent at least, at all probable. But there the settlement is—if not peopled directly from Great Britain and Ireland, at least certain to continue to draw its population chiefly from the British race; and to all true Englishmen, it must be a matter of no small interest, to know how the blood is circulating through the remote capillaries of the vast empire to which they belong, and how our vastly diffused power is telling upon the work of reclaiming and civilising a new world. We have spoken of the "present" distance of Columbia and Vancouver from this country. This leads us to notice the grand scheme which occupies so important a place in the work before us, and which if ever carried out must effect so much for the settlement of British America. It is nothing less than a grand overland route from the Canadas to the Pacific Ocean. The heroism of Arctic explorers has hitherto vainly broken itself against the impenetrable icebergs of the supposed north-western passage; and it is now universally agreed that such a passage, even if discovered, would be unavailable for the purposes of commerce. But here, urges Mr. Macfie, is a route through a level, practicable tract of country, every stage of which would be opening up so much fertile land for the stream of emigration to flow over, presenting no obstacles which engineering skill might not easily overcome, and leading to a communication far more speedy and direct than any now available, with China, Japan, and Eastern Asia generally. Allowing nine days for the steam passage from Southampton to Halifax; six for the railroad journey from Halifax to Vancouver; and then twenty-one days from Vancouver to Hong-Kong—thirty-six days in all—we have a passage no less than twenty-four days shorter than even the present "Overland route" to the last named-port. The idea is certainly a grand one. Fancy steaming across the vast prairie-oceans which reach from the Canadian Lakes to the Rocky Mountains, scaling those formidable barriers by some one of their various passes, and descending upon the vast Pacific! The distance from Halifax to Vancouver, Mr. Macfie reckons at 2,536 miles. We dare not express any opinion as to the feasibility of this gigantic scheme. But one is glad to find sufficient evidence that the district to be traversed by the proposed railway, is by no means that frozen, inclement region which it has too often been represented to be. The Hudson's Bay Company, whose trade was chiefly in the furs of the numerous wild animals that abound there, have been under a bias to exaggerate the arctic features of the Western British territory. The most northerly point in the course of the Saskatchewan river—also the most northerly point of the proposed route—is no higher than 54° N. L. And, according to Mr. Macfie, in consequence of the vast volume and extent of the Pacific Ocean, the "isothermal line runs further north on the north-west coast of America than on the east." Whether or no this grand railway enterprise be achieved within the present generation, of its being eventually carried into effect there can be little doubt.

The only other point we have room to notice is the incipient quarrel already referred to. Availing ourselves of the facts here stated by the author with exemplary candour and good feeling, let us endeavour to place the matter succinctly before our readers. The treaty of 1846, (the "Oregon Treaty,") after laying down the continental boundary between British and Federal America, proceeded to trace it, as "passing through the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver." Now in point of fact, instead of one, there are no less than three channels, formed by the numerous islands—one of which is the disputed San Juan—at the entrance of the elongated bay. Which of these is to be followed? The British interpretation of the treaty, as indicating the channel nearest to the mainland, would of course make the intervening islands British; the American interpretation would make them a part of the territory of the United States. It is much to be regretted that the language of the treaty of 1846 was not more specific. If the British commissioners knew little and cared less for the petty "archipelago" referred to, there is explicit evidence that neither

the ignorance nor the indifference were shared by the Government of the United States. Mr. Macfie quotes at some length a speech delivered by Mr. Benton, legal adviser to the then President of the United States, in 1846, in which it is distinctly assumed that the boundary line would pass—not through the Rosario Channel as is now maintained on the British side, but—through the Channel de Haro, "giving us" the United States Government "all we want, the waters of the Puget Sound, Hood's Canal, Admiralty Inlet, etc., and with them the cluster of islands" [including of course San Juan,] "probably of no value, between De Haro Channel and the Continent." There is no reason to suppose any want of good faith on the part of the American Government, any more than on that of our own. But the vagueness of the language of the treaty was very nearly resulting in war. In 1859 the Americans, with a small military force, occupied San Juan. Sir James Douglas, then Governor of Vancouver, forthwith ordered vessels of war to go and drive out the aggressors. Happily, however, "the senior captain of the squadron, attributing the haste of the Governor to inexperience in matters of grave administration, manœuvred in order to gain time, till the admiral, who was absent, should arrive." Through the wise counsels of the latter, bloodshed was averted; and if the danger was not absolutely removed, it was at least "postponed." In consequence of arrangements then made, the disputed island is occupied by the soldiers of both nations: the Americans holding the northern part, the English the south. "Settlement of the question has been delayed solely on account of the existing civil commotion in the States." It seems unlikely that either side will adopt the other's reading of the treaty; but happily this is not necessary to peace. The existence of a third or intermediate channel seems to present an opportunity for a fair and amicable settlement. Conceding, as has been suggested by a writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, the Rosario Channel to the Americans, and the Haro to the British, the middle channel might conveniently be left neutral. Each nation "would then possess a safe and commodious channel lying beside its own territory." Whatever settlement of the disputed question may be made, no greater reproach to modern civilisation could come to pass, than that an ambiguity in a treaty respecting a matter of comparatively small importance, should be the means of involving two great Powers in a bloody war.

It will be seen that Mr. Macfie's book is one possessing great interest; and we may add that it is throughout unaffectedly and agreeably written. We had marked several other passages for extract, but our space forbids their insertion.

"A WINTER IN ALGERIA."*

A journey of five days suffices to convey an Englishman from the metropolis of his own country to the French settlement of Algeria on the Northern coast of Africa, and those who wish to transport themselves completely away from all the sights and sounds and associations which meet them in their every-day British life, could not accomplish their purpose more effectually than by taking this five days' journey. The traveller will find himself in a city partly French and partly Moorish in construction—the French portion composed of tolerably wide and spacious streets and squares built in the European style: the Moorish composed of an interminable labyrinth of narrow streets, often so narrow that the residents of opposite houses can easily converse with their opposite neighbours, and a person of moderate stature can touch both sides as he passes along. The labyrinth of streets, alleys, passages, stairs, often arched over, is built thus in order to exclude the rays of the sun in all possible ways, and the houses are dazzlingly whitewashed in order that they may retain as little of the sun's heat as possible. The narrow streets often open into spacious courtyards, and although there are portions where the poor congregate, with the usual results of squalor and wretchedness, yet these close quarters also lead to the residences of men of wealth and consideration. The population of Algiers is of a very motley composition. The Kabyles are the aboriginal inhabitants—an industrious race, not, like the Arabs, given to roaming, faithful but to their homes and households, the men moderately restricting themselves to four wives, but very often content with one,—upright, honourable, truthful, loyal, hospitable, quick and intelligent, though illiterate, with memories well stored with Arabian traditions and war songs—strong, robust, well-built, and of middle height. There are Arabs, of several classes, all

* Vancouver Island and British Columbia: their History, Resources, and Prospects. By MATTHEW MACFIE, F.R.G.S., Five Years Resident in Victoria, Vol. I. Longmans.

* A Winter in Algeria, 1863-4. With Illustrations. By Mrs. G. ALBERT ROGERS. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Co., 1865.

wearing the ample berouse, with closely shaven but covered head; these are divided into innumerable tribes, with military and religious chiefs, and three grades of nobility. Then there are the Moors, a mixed race, descended from the various races that have successively landed on the shores of Algeria; an inferior race both mentally and physically, abject, lazy, untruthful, dressing in purely oriental costume, with white muslin turban, vests of brilliant colours, and large oval shoes. There are also Jews,—and various cross races between Arabs, Kabyles, and Jews,—also Turks, Spaniards, Maltese, negroes. Under French rule something like order is preserved amidst all these discordant elements, and a stranger may now walk about without danger to life or property, which was not the case before the French conquest.

Mrs. Rogers seems to have visited Algeria with an invalid, a refugee from the northern winter, in search of more genial climes. The climate appears to be well adapted for those who are suffering from the earlier stages of consumption—for the latter stages it is as useless as any other climate is likely to be. Mrs. Rogers gives us a tolerably complete general view of the country and its inhabitants. She has also, in appendices, supplied some useful details concerning the climate, meteorological tables for the seven months, November, 1863, to May, 1864, and a catalogue of plants peculiar to the locality. She describes also her journeys into the interior, and the routes that are most suitable to travellers. In her preface she apologizes for the diary form which her book assumes, explaining that merely personal recollections have been largely eliminated and information on other matters added. We do not think that she has by this contrivance entirely escaped the faults of a diary. The reader is worried by being constantly brought to a standstill, then starting with a fresh date, with casual remarks about the weather, or "G's" health, and entries of this sort. These details may be very important and interesting to the parties concerned but are trivial and vexatious to the general reader. The necessary result is that the narrative is disjointed, and the reader only finds raw material instead of a well-constructed literary fabric. The division into chapters, with separate titles, is evidently only a "dodge" to make the book lighter and more readable, for there is obviously no reason why the chapter headed "Enlarging Ideas" should begin on January 6, rather than the 5th or 7th. This is the more inexcusable inasmuch as the diary was really well kept, and contains materials which, properly digested, arranged, and supplemented by research, would have made a good guide to the country.

Mrs. Rogers and her invalid charge laboured very diligently, if not always quite judiciously, for the moral and spiritual welfare of the various inhabitants, African and European, of Algiers. Among other schemes a library was set on foot for English residents and visitors. Unfortunately the leaven of Pharisaism and exclusiveness follows nearly all the doings of members of the Established Church, whether at home or abroad. Accordingly, we find this library is called the "English Church Library." It is managed by a committee consisting of the consul, vice-consul, chaplain *pro tem.*, and a select number of communicants, and the following is one of the rules of the library:—

"That no books be admitted into this library of a religious character containing doctrines contrary to the doctrinal principles of the Church of England; and that all books be subject to the approval of the British chaplain for the time being."

The travellers also busied themselves in giving tracts and Testaments to those who could read them and were willing to receive them. We hope the tracts were of a more generous and catholic spirit than the distributors appear to have been. They must have supposed that the truths of Christianity are to be chiefly used to convict all other religions of falsity; apparently they never dreamed of using those truths as a talisman for bringing out and justifying the truths which are hidden yet operative in other religions. One significant feature of Mrs. Rogers's criticism of the religious life she sees around her is that it almost always rests upon external circumstances, such as the observance of the Ramadan Fast, or the non-observance of the Sabbath. Of course we should be glad if the Sabbath were well and rationally kept all the world over; but it is most unfair to test the spiritual character of Jews, Turks, Infidels, and Mahometans, by a merely external fact which is entirely irrelevant to what spiritual culture they have. We cannot put our meaning more forcibly than by contrasting the spirit shown by Mrs. Rogers, in her appreciation of non-Christian observances, with that shown by another visitor to Algeria, who saw the same things, probably at about the same time. Here is Mrs. Rogers's comment on the Ramadan:—

"The implicit obedience which they yield to these hard precepts, shows at least the sincerity of these poor blind devotees; but, alas! sincerity is no Saviour. St.

Paul verily thought within himself, in his unconverted days, 'that he ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth'; but when his eyes were opened to see his real state by nature, he based no plea for pardon on his conscientious sincerity."—P. 151.

Now for the contrast. In *Good Words* of last October is an article by George Macdonald, giving an account of a winter which he, as an invalid, spent in Algeria. He describes some horribly barbarous ceremonies of Moorish women and negroes,—painful and uninteresting in themselves—much worse than the quiet abstinence of the Ramadan. After describing these doings, he proceeds:—

"But the solemnity of the countenances of the performers, and the appearance of earnestness in their work, while it had something ludicrous in it, I yet found impressive and affecting. May it not be, I thought, that even in this there are the first rudiments of the expression of an unknown need?—an inward prayer, that is yet so undefined as to take no embodiment in articulate sound, but utters itself in howls and artificial noises. These too are the children of the one Father, and there may be even in these orgies something of prayer, that reaches the ear that listens, not for the form of the words, but for the utterance of the Need."

Can anything be more striking than the hard, ungenial, half patronising recognition of the sincerity of these "poor blind devotees," as a quality which has no value in the sight of God unless it be linked to a true faith, compared with the brotherly tenderness and pity which can see the attitude of prayer even in the hideous orgies of a heathen festival. We must say we see no trace of this compassionate gentleness in the lady's book—on the contrary, we are perpetually chilled by the utterly hopeless and merely condemnatory view she takes of the whole world except the small fragment of Christendom that would stand well in a doctrinal examination by a very "Evangelical" clergyman of the Church of England.

The recent visit of the French Emperor is likely to add to the growing popularity and attractiveness of Algeria. Consumptive invalids will probably find their way in increasing numbers, and we do not know of any refuge where they have a better chance of being restored. Mrs. Rogers's book may be used as a tolerably safe guide to the outward features of the country. We should add that there are some extremely good engravings, mostly from photographs, which will convey a good idea of several scenes of the country and costumes of the inhabitants.

BRIEF NOTICES.

The Poetical Works of John Milton. With Life, Preliminary Dissertations on each Poem, Notes, &c., and a Verbal Index to all the Poems. By CHARLES DEXTER CLEVELAND. (S. Low, Son, and Co.) This edition of Milton has valuable features, which distinguish it from all mere reprints of the poet, and which place it in many respects far above any popular edition with which we are acquainted. Mr. Cleveland, the author of a "Compendium of English Literature," had occasion, in the preparation of that work, to consult "Todd's Verbal Index to Milton," and found the first two references to which he turned to be wrong. Subsequent examination discovered, in the index to "Lycidas" alone, no less than sixty-three mistakes. He resolved to prepare an index more reliable, and, during three years' labour, has rectified the astounding number of three thousand three hundred and sixty-two mistakes, committed by Todd! He might be thought to exaggerate, but for the detail of his laborious examination. He now gives us a new index to all the poems, in which are inserted all the words of a distinctive character; only such as articles, conjunctions, prepositions, and adjective-pronouns, having been omitted. We have tested it abundantly, and have found no error whatever; we have been able to find many lines by almost every word in them; we have not failed to find any that it has occurred to us to look for. We can pronounce it a true *Concordance* to Milton; a most accurate one; and one which, by giving the references to the books and lines of the poems, is available with every edition of Milton. But this is not all. There is also an index to the subjects of "Paradise Lost," so full and complete that one can gather from it the poet's thoughts, metaphors, descriptions, &c., on any subject, even the most incidental, introduced into the poem. For a study of the mind of Milton, of his opinions on great themes, of his wealth of imagination, his marvellous learning, and the minister touches in his delineations of character, this index of subjects is as valuable (and we have Coleridge's feeling that the "Paradise Lost" should be "carefully studied") as the verbal index which the author has so industriously perfected will be for those studies of our language in which both the prose and the poetical works of the scholarly Milton are quite supremely important.

Still further have we to commend Mr. Cleveland's labours, for he has not been content to adopt a text from some well-reputed editor without examination of its accuracy. Sir Egerton Bridges's six-volume edition was put into the hands of the printer, and read and compared by Todd and Mitford, and with Pickering's reprint of the original editions. Thus a text on which "great and unwearyed pains" have been bestowed, fitly precedes the helps to Miltonian study which this valuable

volume affords. There is a good brief Life of Milton, and notes selected from preceding annotators, with others, chiefly in the way of verbal illustration, furnished by the editor himself. Good sense and good taste have ruled the selections; purity and accuracy mark the explanations. All this has been done for a single volume, of moderate size, very clear type, though rather smaller than those beyond middle life could enjoy to read, paper of a pleasant tone, cloth boards of the best description, and price low enough to make it a people's book, while by its many excellencies it is adapted to the use of the scholar. We believe it will prove to be what the author has patiently and devotedly aimed at making it—"the most useful edition of England's greatest poet."

Rust, Smut, Mildew, and Mould. An Introduction to the Study of Microscopic Fungi. By M. C. COOKE, Author of "Index Fungorum Britanniorum," "Manual of Structural Botany," &c. (R. Hardwicke.) It will perhaps be remembered by some of our readers that we have more than once directed attention to a series of most interesting papers on the Microscopic Fungi, which have appeared in successive numbers of the *Popular Science Review*. We are delighted to find that our own sense of the value of these papers on a subject having great novelty, and never before treated in a popular way, has been so largely participated by others, reviewers and readers, that it has been necessary to reproduce them in this collected form. The author has thus had the opportunity of making useful improvements, not only revising but expanding the chapters, introducing the results of more recent investigations (since the date 1863, when these serial papers commenced), and especially embodying the notices of new species discovered in this country by Dr. De Bary. It was as far back as 1836 that descriptions of the Microscopic Fungi were published in the "English Flora"; and the recent advance of science has made large parts of that work obsolete. The author has therefore prepared an appendix, containing the classification and scientific description of the species occurring in Britain, so far as "the Hypodermial section of Coniomycetal Fungi," and groups of "Epiphytal Fungi belonging to other divisions" are concerned. The book is thus made to supply a want felt by scientific readers; but all who use the microscope for amusement, or who love nature, or who have utilitarian notions of the fungi-pests of our fields and gardens, will find this little volume one of great interest and serviceableness. We have before spoken of Mr. Sowerby's beautiful coloured illustrations; we thought them abundant in the review, but they are nearly doubled in the volume, numbering no less than 300 figures, rendered in the highest perfection of scientific drawing and careful colouring after nature.

NEW EDITIONS.

Sermons. Second Vol. By Rev. R. W. HAMILTON, LL.D., &c. Second Edition. (Hamilton, Adams and Co.) An advertisement to this volume states that in consequence of the favour with which the reprint of the first series of the late Dr. Winter Hamilton's Sermons has been received, his representatives have been induced to issue this second portion; which, however, does not comprise the whole of the Discourses which formed the original second series, but will be followed by a third volume, containing the remainder, together with some miscellaneous sermons and papers not hitherto printed. Criticism of Winter Hamilton's pulpit oratory is not now necessary. The Congregational Pulpit has given to literature no other sermons having such broad, clear marks of original genius. Their wealth of thought, their rich Scripturalness, their bursts of imagination and feeling, and their splendid, though often startling diction, unite to produce a vivid and deep impression not often reached by pulpit oratory. Their peculiarities are so strongly individual that no imitation of them could be other than ridiculous. But, while not models for preachers, they are much more; and we welcome the reproduction which may assist to bring their fascination and their power and their piety to bear on the young ministry and the religious thoughtfulness of our own day.

Hard Cash. By CHARLES READE. New Edition. (S. Low, Son, and Co.) Of a novel so widely read, so largely debated, and so fully noticed by us on its first appearance, we have now no more to say than that it is reprinted in one volume, in a clear, readable type, on good opaque paper, and at a price suited to a general family circulation. We may add, that, whatever questions may be raised as to certain representations it makes of "matters-of-fact," or whatever exceptions may be taken to some qualities of Mr. Reade's art, it is without doubt one of the most remarkable fictions of the last ten years, and more likely than ninety-nine hundredths of contemporary novels to be known and to be reproduced in years yet to come.

Lives of the Queens of England. By AGNES STRICKLAND. Vol. VI. (Bell and Daldy.) This completes the "Historical Library" edition of Miss Strickland's popular work. Everybody who buys books can afford it now. Few works of the class afford so much knowledge with such perpetual interest. A good deal of discussion might be founded on the author's view of the reign and personal character of Anne: but this is not the place. We congratulate her and the public on the completion of this cheap series. The General Index is a model in its way; and makes the use much more

easy, and the contents much more serviceable, than is the case with almost any similar work.

Self-made Men. By WILLIAM ANDERSON. (J. Snow.) The author appears to have attempted the improvement of the literary character of this *Second Edition*; and we fancy has introduced something of new material. But we cannot speak with any admiration of its structure or its general style, and often dislike its undertone or its special opinion. But it is chiefly its desultory character as a compilation, that makes it hard reading.

Obituary.

SIR JOSEPH PAXTON, M.P. for Coventry, died at his house, near the Crystal Palace, on Thursday last, in his 62nd year. In early life, having as a gardener acquired much skill, he obtained employment at the Duke of Devonshire's seat at Chiswick. The Duke, a man of discernment and liberality, perceived the young man's merit and capacity, and removed him to Chatsworth, appointing him to a post of increased responsibility. Here his career was one of continual advancement, until he rose to be director of the extensive gardens and grounds of that noble seat, and subsequently manager of the Duke's vast Derbyshire estates. During this period the most extensive works were executed, and Chatsworth underwent a transformation which made it the most magnificent residence in England. He came more prominently before the public just as the Building Committee of the Great Exhibition of 1851 had got into a position of helplessness, having rejected 233 designs which had been sent in for their inspection, and then produced one of their own in every respect unsuitable. At this conjecture Mr. Paxton proposed a plan which was at once recognised as admirable in its adaptation to the purposes of the proposed building, and which was adopted amidst general applause. The design was carried out under Mr. Paxton's superintendence. The value of this design and Mr. Paxton's other services in connection with the Great Exhibition was recognised by the Queen, who, in 1851, conferred on him the honour of knighthood. When the Crystal Palace Company was formed, the directors naturally had recourse to him, and he was requested not only to revise the plan of the Crystal Palace and adapt it to the purposes of a permanent institution, but the extensive grounds were placed at his disposal to be laid out according to his taste. He has represented Coventry since 1854.

PRESIDENT BENSON.—The Republic of Liberia has lost its first President by death. Stephen Allen Benson was elected the ruler of his free African brethren in 1855, was re-elected three times subsequently, and held the highest office in the Republic altogether for eight years. He retired from public service in 1863, and his death occurred in January last. In 1862, the ex-President visited this country, and was entertained at a banquet presided over by Lord Brougham.

SIR JOHN RICHARDSON, the distinguished Arctic navigator and naturalist, died last week. He accompanied two of Sir John Franklin's expeditions, and wrote several works on the zoology and botany of the icy regions of North America. He died at the ripe age of seventy-seven.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

NIMMO.—May 28th, at Queen's-road, Peckham, the wife of James Nimmo, of a son.
CARLISLE.—June 3, at Southampton, the wife of the Rev. Henry Herman Carlisle, B.A., of a daughter, stillborn.
MARCH.—June 6, the wife of the Rev. Samuel March, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

ILLINGWORTH—HUNTER.—June 1, at Westgate Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. H. Dawson. Mr. Alfred Illingworth, to Miss Martha Hunter, both of Manningham.

JOHN-ON-DYSON.—June 1, at the Independent chapel, Harrogate, by the Rev. J. H. Gavin, Mr. Frank Johnson, of Norwood, to Mary Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. James Dyson, of Albert-terrace, Harrogate.

EDWARDS—CLAYTON.—June 1, at the Independent chapel, Greenhamerton, by the Rev. J. William Daniell, Thomas, eldest son of the late Henry Edwards, Esq., Bay Hall, Huddersfield, to Susan, third daughter of Mr. William Clayton, Ivy Cottage, Broughbridge.

BAILEY—COLPAS.—June 1, at Above Bar Chapel, Southampton, by the Rev. Thomas Adkins, William Edward, eldest son of Mr. James Bailey, of Southampton, to Lucy Catharine, only daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Colpas, of Bishop's Waltham.

SIDEBOTTOM—MITCHELL.—June 3, at West Parade Chapel, Wakefield, by the Rev. Richard Bell, Mr. Abraham Sidebottom, to Hannah, eldest daughter of Mr. John Mitchell, both of Wakefield.

MARLOW—HODGSON.—June 3, at Salem Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. G. Miall, Mr. James Marlow, of Windhill, to Miss Sarah Hodgson, of Frizinghall.

TOWNSEND—LINDLEY.—June 3, at Townhead street Chapel, Sheffield, by the Rev. C. Larom, Mr. John W. Townsend, eldest son of Mr. John Townsend, Steel Bank, to Clara, eldest daughter of Mr. Henry J. Lindley, of the same place. No cards.

LEAVER—STULE.—June 3, at Trinity Chapel, Wavertree, Liverpool, by the Rev. E. Hassan, Josiah Leaver, Esq., of London, to Mary Jane, daughter of the late Jonathan Stule, Esq. No cards.

ALLERTON—POLL.—June 4, at the Congregational chapel, Lowestoft, by the Rev. J. L. Blackmore, Mr. George Allerton, of Lowestoft, to Miss Mary Ann Poll, of Badingham, in this county.

HIGHAM—HUYTON.—June 5, at St. Paul's Independent chapel, Wigan, by the Rev. W. Roaf, Mr. Robert Higham, to Miss Margaret Huyton, both of Upholland.

POPLEWELL—CARSWELL.—June 5, at the Independent chapel, Brentwood, by the Rev. H. P. Bowen, Joseph Stephen, third son of Mr. John Popplewell, of Ipswich, to Elizabeth Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. James Carswell, of Brentwood.

WARING—HEATON.—June 5, at the Independent chapel, Honley, by the Rev. H. Hustwick, Mr. William Waring, Liverpool, to Ann, youngest daughter of Mr. Thomas Heaton, of Honley.

WHITELEY—WOOD.—June 6, at Sion Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. Makepeace, Mr. Joshua Whiteley, to Miss Susannah Wood, both of Bowling.

JONES—RUTHERFORD.—June 6, at Clapton Chapel, by the Rev. H. J. Gamble, R. S. Jones, of Norton cottage, Upper Clapton, to Susannah, daughter of H. K. Rutherford, Esq., of Knightland House, Upper Clapton.

MONEY—MOORE.—June 6, at the Congregational church, Hastings, by the Rev. James Griffin, the Rev. William Money, of Plymouth, to Susannah, third daughter of George Moore, Esq., M.D., of Hastings.

BUCKLEY—EVITT.—June 7, at the Baptist chapel, King-street, Oldham, by the Rev. William Stokes, Joseph, second son of the late Joseph Buckley, Waterloo-street, Oldham, to Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr. William Evitt, Silver-street, Oldham.

BRITAIN—GILL.—June 7, at the Wicker Congregational church, Sheffield, by the Rev. Henry Tarrant, Mr. Samuel Swann Brittain, to Dorothy, elder daughter of Mr. Henry Gill.

STAINES—GUTTERIDGE.—June 8, at West-street Chapel, Dunstable, by the Rev. D. Gould, Henry Staines, of 18, Great St. Helen's, London, to Elizabeth Sarah, elder daughter of Joseph Gutteridge, Esq., of Dunstable. No cards.

CARR—ASHBY.—June 8, at the Friends' Meeting House, Staines, James Nicholson Carr, Esq., of Carlisle, to Elizabeth, fourth daughter of Frederick Ashby, Esq., of Staines.

GREEN—WHITE.—June 8, at London-road Chapel, Leicester, by the Rev. R. W. Mcall, Mr. George Green, to Miss Sarah Ann White.

PROUDMAN—VOLCKMAN.—June 12, at Lower Clapton Congregational church, by the Rev. William Tyler, Joseph Proudman, to Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Francis Volkman, Esq., of Stoke Newington. No cards.

DEATHS.

JONES.—June 7, at his residence, at nine o'clock p.m., after a long and painful illness, borne with exemplary resignation to the Divine will, the Rev. William Jones, for many years the beloved faithful minister of Glynarthen, Hawer, &c. Independent churches, Cardiganshire. Aged sixty-five years.

GRAY.—June 4 at 3, Highbury-park North, N. (the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. Thomas Rowland Hill), Mrs. Sarah Gray, relict of the late Charles Gray, Esq., formerly of New Park-street, Southwark, in her seventy-fifth year.

BEAUMONT.—June 4, at her residence, 11, Walton-place, Knightsbridge, suddenly, of disease of the heart, Susanna, the widow of the late Rev. Dr. Beaumont, in her sixtieth year.

ROBERTS.—June 6, at his residence, at Stamford-hill, in the fifty-fifth year of his age, Thomas Roberts, Esq., of the firm of Messrs. Longman, Green, Longman, Roberts, and Green.

PEASE.—June 7, at 20, Finsbury-square, Francis Richard, youngest son of Joseph Pease, Esq., of Southend, Darlington, in his twenty-first year.

PRYCE.—June 11, at Gravesend, the Rev. Richard Pryce, formerly for many years pastor of the church at Coate, Oxon, aged eighty-five.

BEST.—June 13, at Melbourne, Derbyshire, in her eighty-third year, Anna Maria, widow of the late Rev. T. Best, of Fovant, Wilts.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, June 12.

This morning's market was moderately supplied with English wheat, which found buyers at the currency of last Monday. Arrivals of foreign wheat are large, principally from Dantzig; the sale to-day has been limited, and prices are the same as this day a fortnight. Barley, beans, and peas quiet, and without alteration in value. Since this day week there has been a fair arrival of foreign oats. The trade, being relieved from the immense supplies of last month, has for the last few days shown more activity, and a few cargoes fresh up to-day met a good sale at an improvement of 6d. per qr. from the rates of Monday last. The advance was readily obtained for good qualities.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per qr.	Per qr.
WHEAT—	s. s.	s. s.
Essex and Kent,		
red, 1863	38 to 41	34 to 36
Ditto 1864	32 42	36 39
White, 1863	41 47	34 38
1864	43 48	37 40
Foreign red ..	38 42	36 38
white ..	42 52	37 40
BARLEY—		
English malting ..	—	—
Chevalier ..	—	—
Distilling ..	25	25
Foreign ..	20	30
OATS—		
English feed ..	17	22
Scotch feed ..	23	26
Irish black ..	22	26
white ..	19	24
Foreign feed ..	18	23
BEANS—		
Ticks ..	33	35
Harrow ..	36	38
Small ..	38	44
Egyptian ..	36	37
FLOUR—		
Town made ..	37	40
Country Marks ..	29	32
Norfolk & Suffolk	24	27
BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 6d. to 7d.; household ditto, 5d. to 6d.		

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

MONDAY, June 12.—The total imports of foreign stock into London, last week, amounted to 13,936 head. In the corresponding week in 1864, we received 12,207; in 1863, 9,513; in 1862, 5,585; in 1861, 9,053; in 1860, 9,764; 1859, 4,574 head. There was a large supply of foreign stock on sale here to-day. The beasts came to hand in good condition, but the quality of the sheep was only middling. Sales progressed steadily at full quotations. The arrivals of beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts were only moderate; but there was a decided improvement in the condition of the stock. The receipts from Scotland were, as usual, very prime, but the supply from Ireland was by no means first-rate. Nearly all breeds were in good request, and in some instances prices ruled a shade higher than on Monday last. A few very superior Scots and crosses sold at 5s. 2d.; but the general top figure was 5s. per siba. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 1,500 Scots, crosses, &c.; from other parts of England, 600 of various breeds; from Scotland, 702 Scots and crosses; and, from Ireland, 80 oxen and heifers. There were a few good beasts from Lincolnshire. The show of English sheep was limited, and in middling condition. Prime breeds moved off steadily, at full prices. Otherwise, the mutton trade was quiet, at late rates. The best Downs and half-breds sold at from 6s. to 6s. 4d. per siba. Lambs—the supply of which was only moderate—were in slow request at from 6s. 4d. to 7s. 4d. per siba. There was a steady sale for calves, at Thursday's advance. The highest quotation was 5s. 4d. per siba. The supply of both English and foreign calves was only moderate. In pigs very little was doing, at late rates.

Per siba, to sink the offal.

a. d. a. d.	a. d. a. d.
Inf. coarse beasts, 3 6 to 3 10	Prime Southdown 6 0 to 6 4
Second quality 4 0 4 4	Lambs .. 6 4 7 8
Prime large chsh. 4 6 4 8	Lge. coarse calves 4 4 4 10
Prime Scots, &c. 4 10 5 0	Prime small .. 5 0 5 4
Coarse inf. sheep 4 6 4 10	Large hogs .. 3 8 4 4
Second quality 5 0 5 4	Neatste. porkers. 4 6 4 10
Pr. coarse woolled 5 6 5 10	Lamb, 6s. 0d. to 7s. 0d.

Scouring calves, 19s. to 22s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 20s. to 27s. each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, June 12.

Very moderate supplies of town and country-killed meat are on sale at these markets to-day. Most descriptions move off slowly at the annexed quotations:

Per siba, by the carcass.

a. d. a. d.	a. d. a. d.
Inferior beef .. 3 4 to 3 8	Small pork .. 4 8 to 5 0
Middling ditto .. 3 10 4 0	Inf. mutton .. 4 4 4 10
Prime large do. 4 2 4 4	Middling ditto .. 5 0 5 4
Do. small do. 4 6 4 8	Prime ditto .. 5 6 5 8
Large pork. 4 8 4 6	Veal .. 4 0 5 0

Lamb, 6s. 0d. to 7s. 0d.

COVENT-GARDEN, SATURDAY, June 10.

Supplies, both of home-grown and continental produce, have greatly increased in quantity since our last report. Outdoor strawberries from the west of England are arriving in large quantities, but they are not very good in quality. English peas have quite taken the place of foreign ones. The importation of cherries has commenced, and prices for them vary from 1s. to 2s. per lb. Grapes and pine apples are sufficient for the demand. Cob nuts fetch from 5s. to 6s. per 100bs. Lemons fetch from 5s. to 8s. per 100. Asparagus is still well supplied, as is also brocoli, of excellent quality. Good new kidney potatoes fetch from 4s. to 6s. per dozen pounds. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, heaths, azaleas, pelargoniums, mignonette, and roses.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, June 12.—The arrivals of old potatoes are large for the time of year, and the demand for them rules heavy, at drooping prices. New produce is now in the markets, and is selling at from 1s. to 1s. per cwt. The import into London last week was 2,580 baskets from Dunkirk, 96 Boulogne, 282 Dieppe, 24 Havre, 89 sacks Caen, 10 baskets Jersey, 30 Rotterdam, 4 sacks Antwerp, and 495 boxes from Cadiz.

PROVISIONS, Monday, June 12.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 542 firkins butter, and 2,178 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 15,048 casks of butter, and 1,947 bales of bacon. The foreign butter market has again advanced about 6s. per cwt. Best Dutch 10s. Irish butter early in the week met a slow sale, but later the demand was active, and prices advanced 2

WOOL, Monday, June 12.—The supply of wool on offer in our market is very moderate. The trade being principally occupied with the public sales of colonial still in progress, the demand, both for home use and export, is very moderate. In price, however, no change has taken place.

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c.—SATURDAY, June 10.—A moderate business is doing in flax, at full quotations. For hemp there is a fair demand, and prices rule firm. Jute and coir goods are in moderate demand, at last week's currency.

TALLOW, Monday, June 12.—The tallow trade is steady to-day, and prices are rather higher than on Monday last. P.Y.C. is quoted at 40s. 6d. to 40s. 9d. per cwt. on the spot, and 42s. 8d. for October to December delivery. Town tallow commands 39s. net cash. Rough fat commands 2s. 0d. per lb.

COALS, Monday, June 12.—Market heavy, at last day's prices. Hetton's, 17s. 6d., Hauxwell, 17s. 6d., Hartlepool, 17s. 6d., Bradley's, 18s. 6d., Hetton Lyons, 18s. 6d., Turnstall, 18s. 6d., Wylam, 18s. 6d., Goathurst, 18s. 6d., Riddells 18s. 6d., Tanfield, 18s. 9d., Hartleys, 18s. 6d.—Fresh ships, 77; left 15; at sea, 15.

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